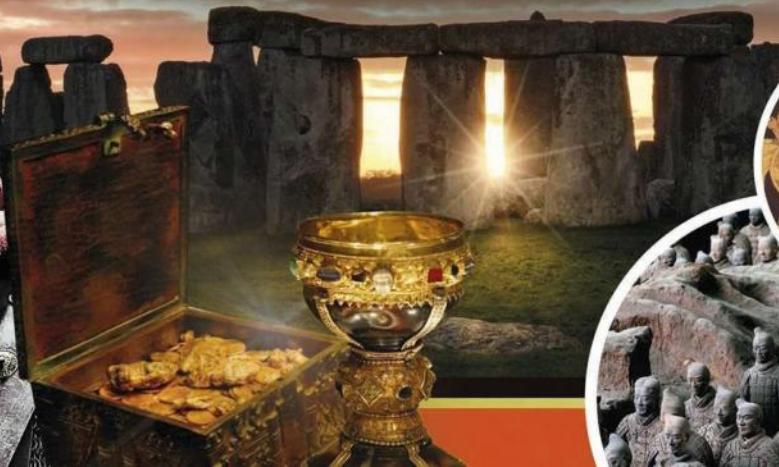


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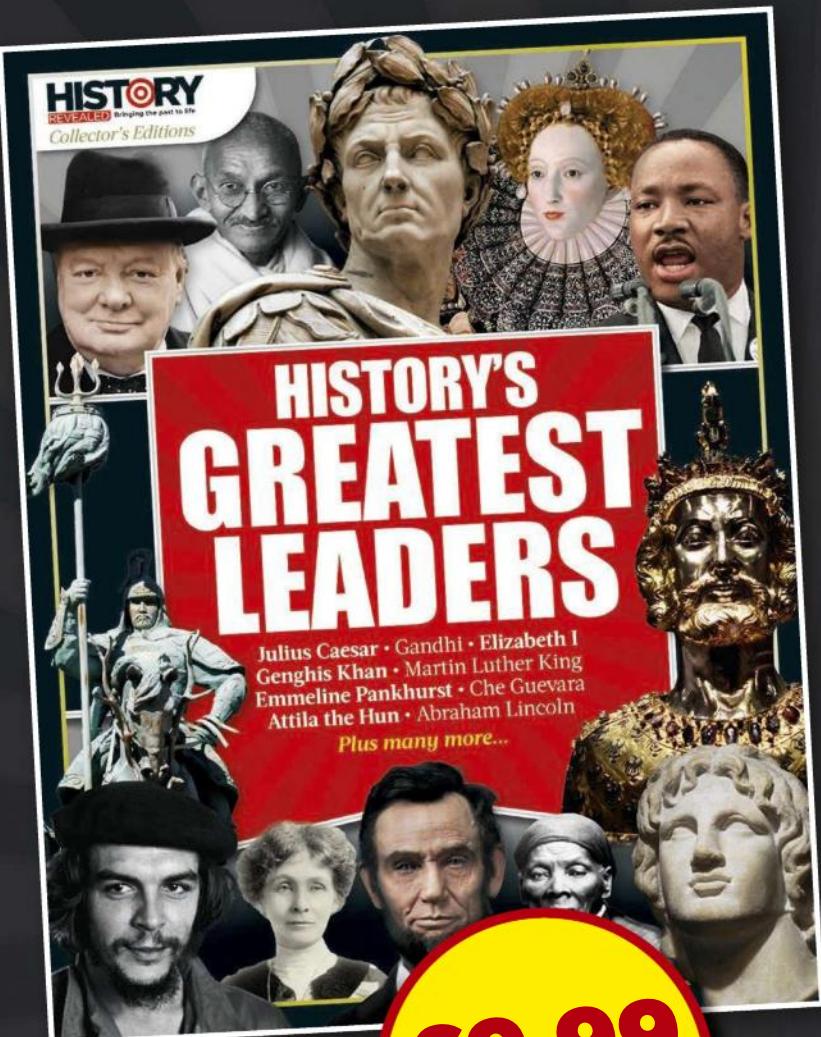
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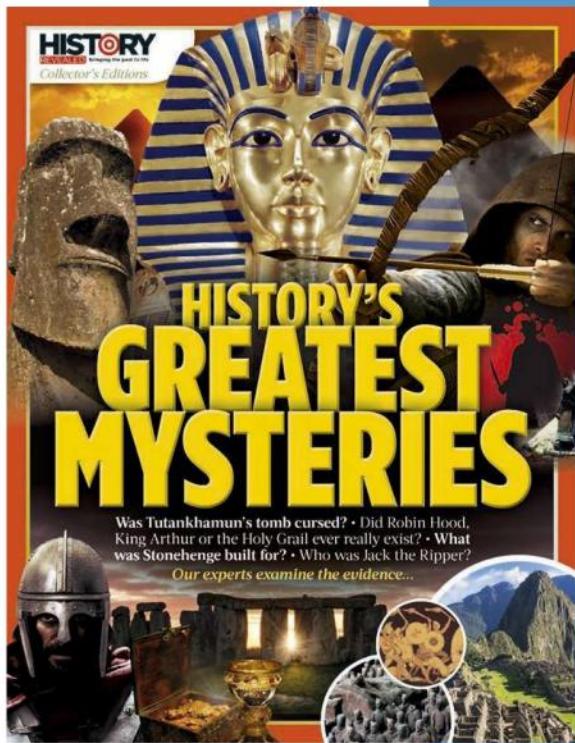
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Welcome



The study of history is all about **uncovering the truth** behind the mysteries of the past. And while some civilisations are well documented, and some characters have their stories recorded for prosperity, far more often, it's a case of **piecing together the jigsaw** to get to the truth.

In this special edition of *History Revealed* magazine, we attempt to **separate fact from fiction**, we examine the evidence and play archaeological detective to try to **get to the bottom** of some of the most intriguing stories that have **kept us guessing for centuries**.

Of course, we'll never know all the answer, but don't forget you can uncover more mysteries from the past **every month in *History Revealed*!**

Paul McGuinness
editor@historyrevealed.com

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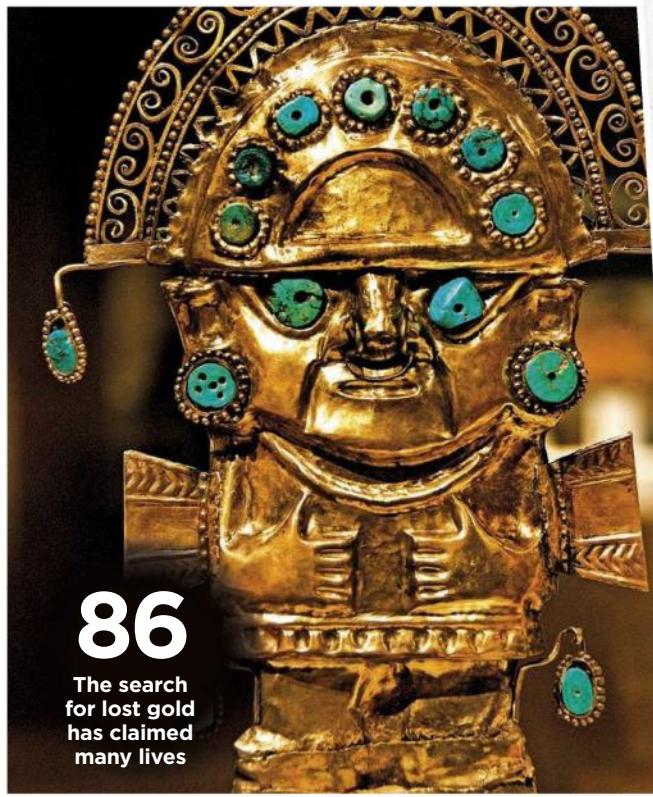
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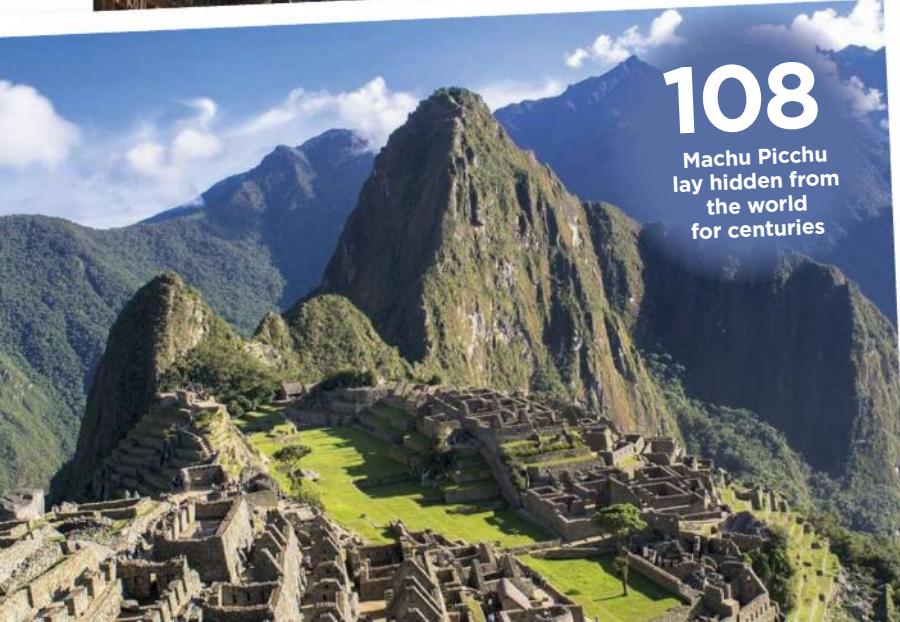
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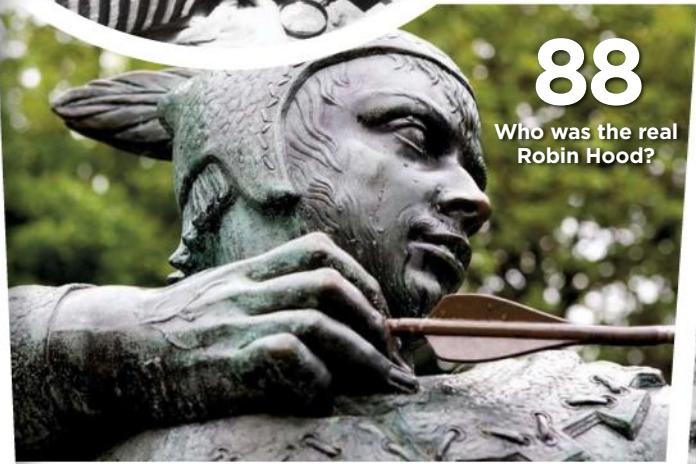
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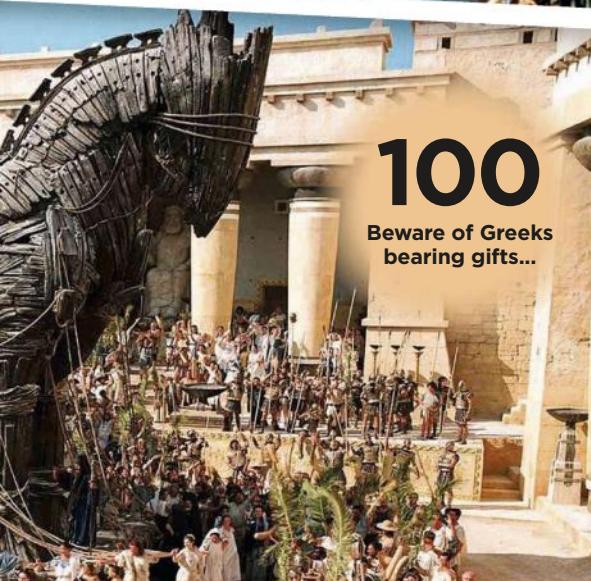
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Minor put together



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Nessie was first sighted in AD 565

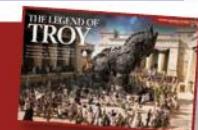
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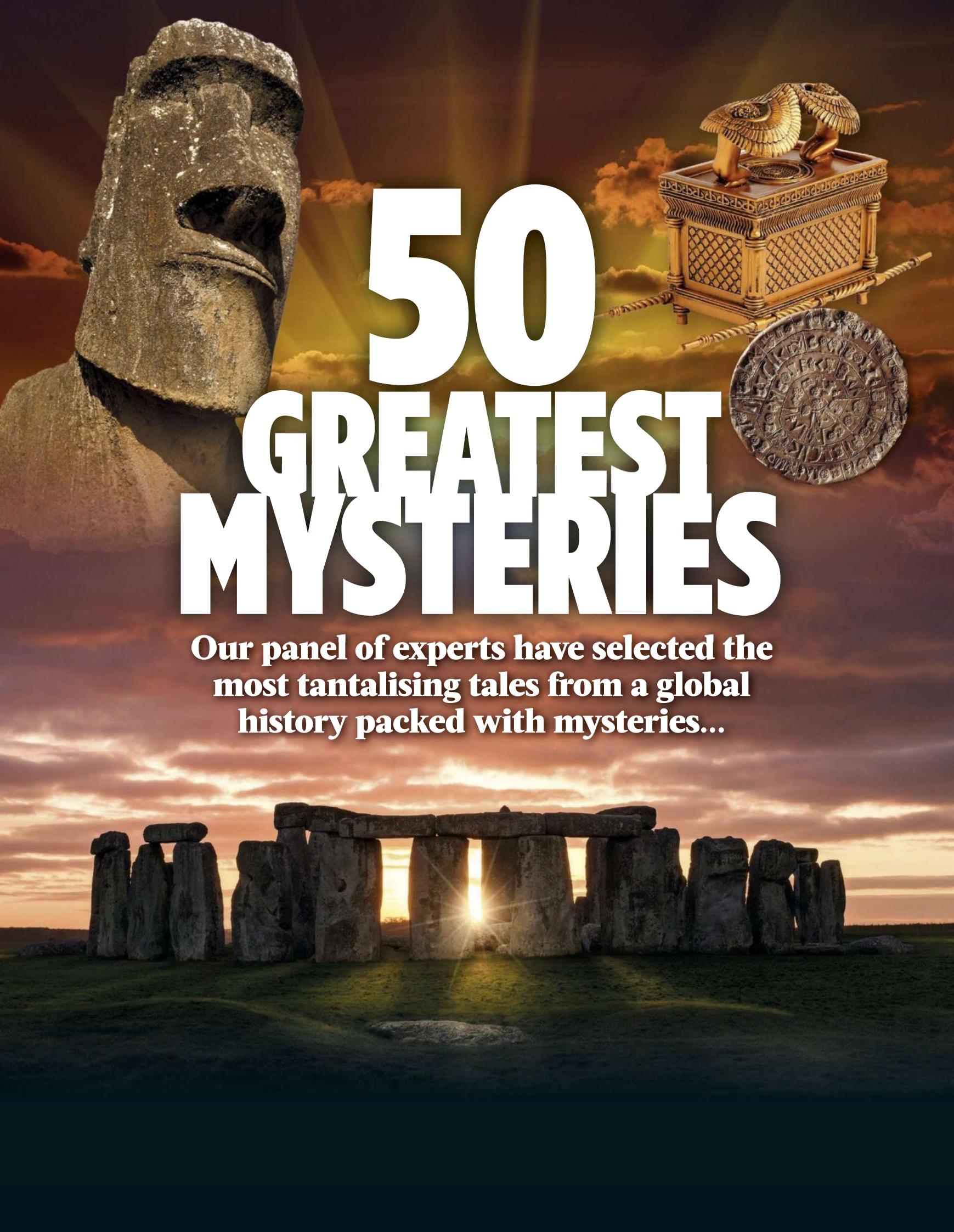
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The Incas' great domain was lost for 350 years

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50 GREATEST MYSTERIES

**Our panel of experts have selected the
most tantalising tales from a global
history packed with mysteries...**



50

SS OURANG MEDAN



Rumour has it that in June 1947, an SOS signal was sent by SS *Ourang Medan*, a Dutch freighter sailing near

Sumatra and Malaysia. "All officers including captain are dead, lying in chartroom and bridge. Possibly whole crew dead. I die". The decaying bodies of the entire ship's crew were found strewn across the decks, uninjured but with faces twisted in horror. Were they, as some have suggested, victims of biological weapons, or was it something more sinister?

49

THE WEIGHT OF THE SOUL



In early 19th-century Massachusetts, Dr Duncan MacDougall weighed six dying patients – five men and one woman. To his astonishment, the moment life left each of the patients, their weight reduced

by 21 grams, something that didn't happen in subsequent experiments on mice and dogs. Is this 21 gram difference, as MacDougall concluded, the weight of the human soul?

48

THE LOST REGIMENT



On 12 August 1915, during the World War I Gallipoli campaign, the 5th Battalion Norfolk Regiment was

advancing against Turkish lines when a strange fog allegedly came down over them. When it lifted, the men were nowhere to be seen. The fate of the missing men remained a mystery for the rest of the war, with Turkey denying their capture, but in 1919 their remains were finally identified, scattered over an area of about one square mile.

47

THE 'GHOST' BLIMP



August 16, 1942: A US Navy blimp crewed by Ernest Cody and Charles Adams prepared for take-off from San Francisco Bay in search of Japanese enemy submarines. An hour into the flight, the pair radioed to say they were going to

examine a possible oil spill. The blimp was next seen crash-landed in Daly City, with no sign of its crew. Cody and Adams were never seen again.

45

THE ROHONC CODEX

Discovered in Hungary in the early 19th century, the Rohonc Codex is a 448-page illustrated book containing text in an unknown language and writing system, mixing runes with what seems to be Old Hungarian. The book also contains 84 illustrations depicting military battles, landscapes, and religious icons, which has led to theories that it is a religious or historical text. Another possibility is that it was a hoax by Sámuel Literáti Nemes, a well-known 19th-century forger.



46

THE STONE OF SCONE

Weighing 152kg with a roughly incised cross on one surface, the Stone of Scone has been associated with the crowning of Scottish kings since at least 847, but no one knows why. According to legend, the stone – also known as Lia Fáil (the speaking stone) – was lent to the Scots by the Irish, but it was never returned. Other legends state that the stone – now in Edinburgh Castle – was used by Jacob as a pillow at Bethel or, in Jewish tradition, was the pedestal for Noah's ark.



"LEGENDS STATE THAT THE STONE WAS THE PEDESTAL FOR NOAH'S ARK"

Iron rings on either side of the stone help with transportation

44

SHAKESPEARE'S STOLEN HEAD



In the chancel of Stratford-upon-Avon's Holy Trinity Church lies the grave of England's most famous playwright: William Shakespeare. But is all of him there? In 1879, *Argosy*

magazine put out the story that in 1794, the Bard's head had been stolen. A story often dismissed as fiction, recent examination of the grave with ground-penetrating radar has found that Shakespeare's head does appear to be missing from its resting place, perhaps stolen to order by a fan of his work, or sold on by chancing grave robbers.

43

THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE



A legendary substance said to be able to turn base metal to gold, as well as a way of achieving eternal youth and immortality, stories about the philosopher's stone have been around since circa AD 300. Sir

Isaac Newton is among those who have searched in vain for the substance but in 1382, French bookseller Nicolas Flamel claimed to have transformed lead into gold after decoding an ancient book of alchemy. Although never proven, Flamel did come into considerable wealth around this time.

41

PYRAMID OF HELLINIKON



Located near Argos in Greece, the Pyramid of Hellinikon remains a mystery as to why, and when, it

was built. Possibly dating to 2000-2700 BC, some believe the 3.5-metre-high structure is a memorial to those who died in the struggle between mythical brothers Proetus and Acrisius for the throne of Argos.

40

WOLFSEGG IRON



Found inside a large piece of coal in Wolfsegg am Hausruck, Austria, in 1885, the Wolfsegg Iron – also known as the Salzburg Cube – is an intriguing artefact. Weighing almost

800 grams, the egg-shaped object appears to have been carved from a single lump of iron ore. But how did this manmade object end up inside a piece of coal 20-60 million years old? Theories abound, ranging from a meteorite fragment to being made by a now-lost ancient civilisation. The most likely explanation is that it was a piece of cast iron used as ballast in mining machinery.

39

SPRING-HEELED JACK

Sightings of a man with a goatee beard, pointed ears and horns, and flashing, fiery eyes are recorded all over England during the 19th century. In the first recorded sighting, in London in 1837, the mysterious creature is said to have assaulted a young woman on Clapham Common, touching her flesh with claws "cold and clammy as those of a corpse". A second episode the following day saw him leaping a nine-foot wall, earning him the name Spring-Heeled Jack. Some attribute the sightings to mass hysteria, while others believe an ill-humoured individual to be responsible.



42

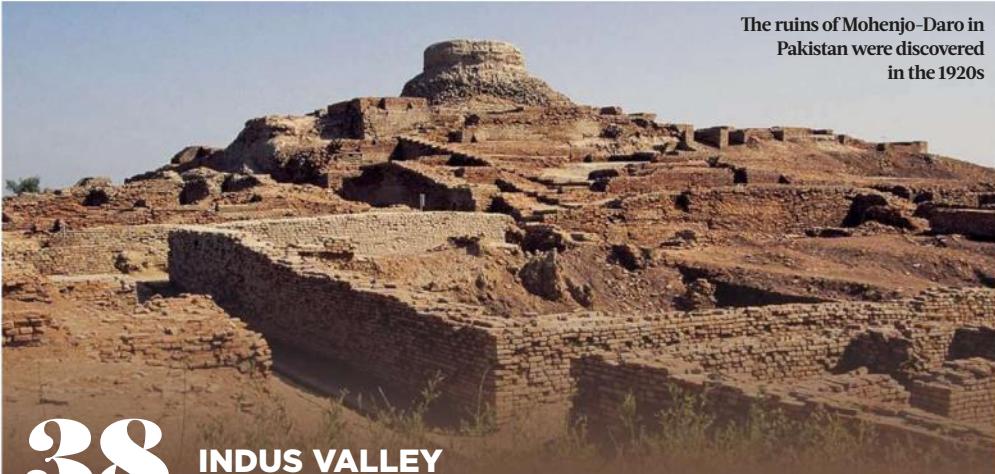
KING SOLOMON'S GOLD

The biblical Solomon, a king of Israel between c970-931 BC, was renowned for his extraordinary wealth, held in a mysterious land known as Ophir. The location of Ophir has been placed in Africa, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Mozambique, to name but a few, but investigations of ancient copper mines in Jordan – active during Solomon's reign – have led some to believe that these, in fact, are the King's fabled mines.



ABOVE: It has been suggested that these copper mines in Jordan were the true source of King Solomon's wealth





38 INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION

The people of the Indus River Valley once occupied more than 1,000 settlements over a 300,000-square-mile area along the Indus River, in what is now Pakistan and northwest India. The civilisation reached its peak between 2600 and 1900 BC and excavations of two major cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, have revealed sophisticated buildings with an elaborate underground drainage system. But between 1900 BC and 1500 BC, this ancient civilisation collapsed and abandoned the cities, with some hiding their valuables under the floors of their homes. Was there a war? Famine? Plague? We may never know.

37 THE TARIM MUMMIES



In 1934, Swedish archaeologists working in the desert of the Tarim Basin in present-day Xinjiang, China, found a collection of around 200 mummies dating from 1800 BC – AD 200. Incredibly well-preserved thanks to the dry soil, these extraordinary mummies display distinctly Caucasian features – brown, and even red, hair and long noses. Buried in upside-down boats surrounded by a host of phallic symbols, DNA analysis has revealed the mummies to be of mixed ancestry with European and some Siberian genetic markers. Who were these people and how did they come to be buried here?

36 ROME'S LOST LEGION



The Ninth Legion comprised some of the finest fighters of the Roman Empire. Formed in 65 BC, they fought in Hispania and Gaul before joining Claudius's

invasion of Britain in AD 43 and taking part in the subduing of Boudicca's rebellion of AD 61, which saw the loss of many of the legion's foot-soldiers. The Ninth crops up in various instances after this but, mysteriously, seems to vanish without explanation in around AD 117. Did the legion, as novelist Rosemary Sutcliff would have us believe in her 1954 book *Eagle of the Ninth*, disappear in the mists of Caledonia, only to then be slaughtered by northern tribes?

35 ROBIN HOOD



See page 88

English folklore's most famous hero is probably Robin Hood, the outlaw who robbed from the rich to give to the poor. The first literary reference to Robin is the c1377 poem *Piers Plowman*, and his legend has lived on ever since. But was there a real Robin Hood who inspired these folk tales? Medieval chroniclers were convinced that Robin Hood was alive and living in Sherwood Forest; Christian revellers in the 15th century celebrated May Day with games involving a Robin Hood-type figure with religious overtones. Certainly, as early as the 13th century, Robehod or Rabunhod had become popular names for criminals, but concrete evidence of his existence remains elusive.

The ruins of Mohenjo-Daro in Pakistan were discovered in the 1920s

34 THE CARNAC STONES



Surrounding the French village of Carnac in Brittany are more than 3,000 stones – some standing alone, others

positioned in clusters. It is generally thought that the stones were erected during the Neolithic period (4500-2000 BC), but no one knows why. The most popular theory is that they were linked to astronomy, possibly acting as calendars and observatories, and allowing priests to predict astronomical events such as eclipses. Another theory is that they were erected as a way of honouring the dead. Meanwhile, a local myth purports that they are the remains of a Roman legion turned to stone by the wizard Merlin.

33 BOG BODIES

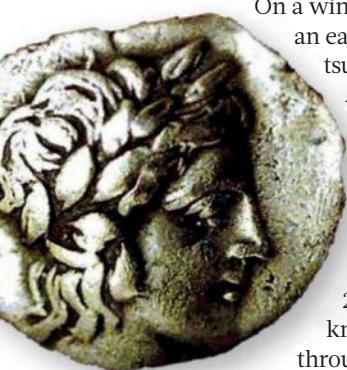
From Lindow Man to Elling Woman, several hundred ancient corpses have been found preserved in peat bogs across Europe, but how and why they died is often a mystery. The incredible preservation of these bodies is such that clothes, skin, nails, hair, stomach contents and even facial expressions have survived thousands of years, giving an unprecedented view into the lives of our ancient forbears. Many show signs of gruesome deaths – the Danish Tollund Man, for example, had been hanged – buried with the noose still around his neck. Eyes and mouth deliberately closed, experts believe he was a human sacrifice.

The fourth-century-BC 'Tollund Man' was found with a noose still around his neck



32

LOST CITY OF HELIKE



On a winter night in 373 BC, an earthquake-triggered tsunami swept over the Ancient Greek city of Helike, submerging its buildings and inhabitants and committing the once-thriving city to the sea floor. For more than 2,000 years, all that was known of the lost city was through the works of ancient writers such as Pliny and Ovid, and over time its exact location was lost. It wasn't until 2001 that the ruins of classical buildings were discovered... almost half a mile inland on the site of an ancient lagoon. The ruins of Helike have revealed significant archaeological finds, but there is still much to learn about this ancient city.

31

OAK ISLAND MONEY PIT



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Off the south shore of Nova Scotia is an island that has frustrated centuries of treasure hunters

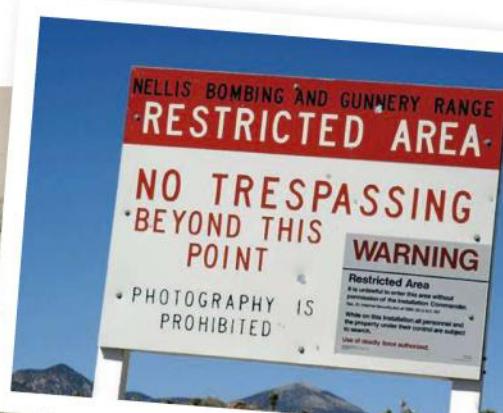
who have flocked to a depression in its forest floor, about 13 feet in diameter, said to contain buried treasure. Since 1795, people have tunneled into the depression, only to encounter a series of wooden barriers. At 90 feet, a large stone tablet was found, inscribed with strange symbols interpreted as "Forty Feet Below, Two Million Pounds Are Buried". But no one has been able to dig further than 114 feet thanks to continued flooding of the shaft. Is the pit a natural phenomenon, or does it really contain buried treasure?

30

DAN COOPER



History's only unsolved plane hijacking took place on 24 November 1971, when a man identifying himself as Dan Cooper hijacked a Northwest Orient flight from Portland to Seattle, demanding \$200,000 in ransom money. Upon landing in Seattle, the plane's 36 passengers were exchanged for the money and four parachutes, and Cooper, with



The restricted area's no-trespassing sign states that "use of deadly force" is authorised

29

AREA 51

Area 51, the top-secret US military base in Nevada, has been swathed in mystery for decades. Surrounded by miles of empty desert, confirmation of its existence wasn't confirmed until 2000, when photographs taken by a Soviet orbital probe were published. Yet, even today, it still doesn't 'officially' exist. One of the most famous mysteries involving Area 51 is the Roswell incident of 1947, which saw an alleged UFO crash-land near Roswell, New Mexico. Recovered and taken to Area 51 by the military who asserted that the recovered object was a crashed weather balloon, many still believe Area 51 is hiding evidence of alien life.

some of the crew, took to the sky again, headed for Mexico City. But mid-flight, Cooper parachuted out of the plane with the money and was never seen again. The case has baffled the FBI for 45 years, but the mysterious DB Cooper has never been identified.

28

CLEOPATRA'S TOMB



In 30 BC, Cleopatra, Egypt's last pharaoh, committed suicide after losing her empire to Rome at the Battle of Actium. According to historians of the time, the triumphant Roman emperor Octavian permitted Cleopatra and her lover Mark Antony to be buried together, but their tomb has never been found. Some believe that the lovers were interred in Cleopatra's palace, a site that is now under water. A more recent claim is that they are buried at Abusir, 28 miles

from Alexandria, among the ruins of a temple to the Egyptian god Osiris.

27

THE DANCING PLAGUE OF 1518



In July 1518, in Strasbourg, a woman began to dance. Several days later, still dancing, she was joined by about 30 other people and within a month, 400 people were dancing – some literally dancing themselves to death. The authorities decided that the best cure was to keep dancing, and a wooden stage was constructed. According to one report, 15 dancers were dying each day from heart attacks, strokes or sheer exhaustion. Why these people continued to dance is still a mystery – theories offered include the psychoactive effects of a specific fungi, or a stress-induced psychosis triggered by disease and starvation.

26 THE ZODIAC KILLER



Between 1966-9, a deadly serial killer terrorised San Francisco, killing at least six confirmed – but possibly as many as 37 – victims. In letters sent to the press and police, the murderer referred to himself as the Zodiac, using a circle divided into four quarters as

his sign-off. In addition to the letters, which taunted the police, the Zodiac also sent several coded letters, which he claimed could reveal his identity. Only one has been decoded: in it, the Zodiac claims those he had killed would become his slaves in the afterlife. Despite interviewing 2,500 suspects, the killer has never been found and the case remains open and unsolved.

25 VOYNICH MANUSCRIPT



Described as “the world’s most mysterious medieval manuscript”, the Voynich Manuscript has baffled cryptologists, linguists and mathematicians since its rediscovery in 1912. At 236 pages long, the manuscript is written in an unknown language, and features images of unidentified plants, astronomical symbols, as well as women bathing. Dated to the 15th century, it was even investigated – unsuccessfully – by World War II codebreakers. Debate still rages as to whether the manuscript is simply an elaborate hoax or whether it does indeed hold an encrypted message.

24 TUTANKHAMUN'S CURSE



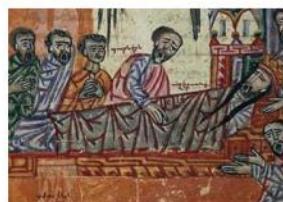
In 1922, archaeologist Howard Carter discovered the tomb, and mummy, of Tutankhamun in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings. Although no curse was found in the tomb, a number of Carter’s team, and visitors to the site, died unexpectedly in the years that followed,

See page 34

giving rise to rumours of a ‘pharaoh’s curse’. Among its alleged victims were Archibald Douglas Reid, who supposedly X-rayed the mummy; Arthur Mace from the excavation team, who died of arsenic poisoning; secretary Richard Bethell who died suddenly in his sleep; and Carter’s patron, Lord Carnarvon, who died of blood poisoning from an infected mosquito bite six months after the discovery.

murder at the hands of his generals, and poisoned wine. The true cause of death will probably never be known, but after a fever of 12 days, the young leader could neither move nor speak and could only shift his eyes in farewell as his troops filed past.

23 ALEXANDER THE GREAT



Ruler of the largest empire of the ancient world, Alexander the Great was just 33 when he died in 323 BC. His death, at the height of his success, was unexpected, and conspiracy theories still surround his untimely demise. Theories of smallpox, typhoid, leukemia, malaria and even alcoholism have been put forward, as has

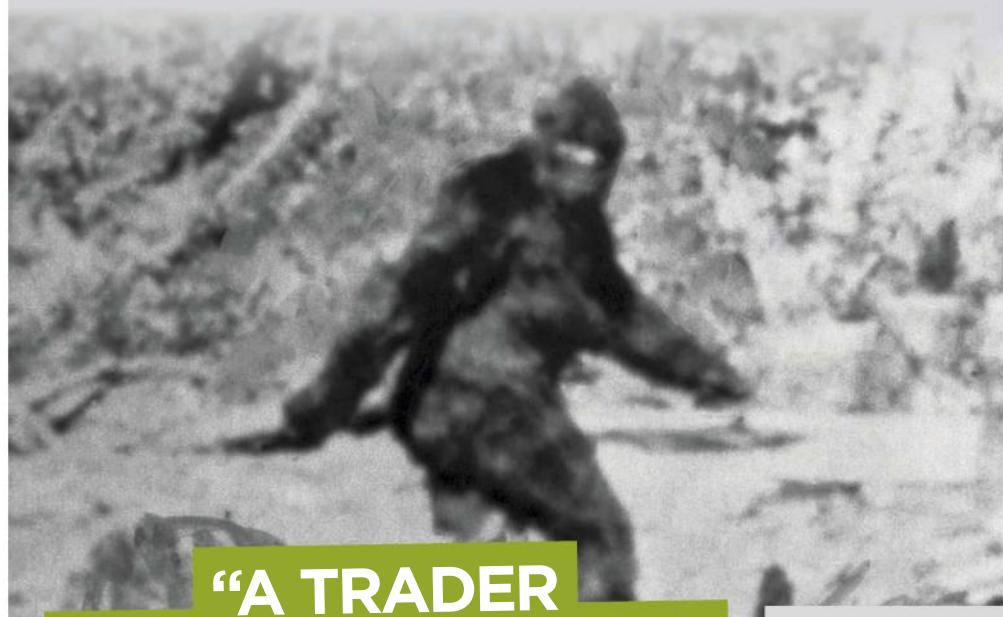
21 MOTHMAN



On 16 November 1966, the West Virginia newspaper *Point Pleasant Register* published a report titled “Couples See Man-Sized Bird ... Creature ... Something”. Four days earlier, so the article went, up to 100 people were said to have seen a “large flying man with ten-foot wings”, a creature also described as a “large bird with red eyes”. The national press picked up on the story, and so the legend of the Mothman was born. A festival is held in his honour annually.

22 BIGFOOT

Legends of huge man-apes, covered in hair with enormous feet, can be found in the histories of many countries, but their existence has never been proven. Known as Yeti in the Himalayas and Sasquatch in Canada, Bigfoot, as its US entity is known, appears in a number of Native American legends. The first sighting by a white man is said to have occurred in 1811, in Alberta, Canada, when a trader found four-toed footprints, 14 inches long and eight inches wide, in the snow. There are even photographs of the mysterious creature, although most have been proven hoaxes.



“A TRADER FOUND FOOTPRINTS 14 INCHES LONG”

A 1967 film which claims to capture footage of Bigfoot has been largely discredited by scientists

20

SOLWAY SPACEMAN



On a sunny May day in 1964, Carlisle fireman Jim Templeton took a photograph of his eldest daughter near the Solway Firth, a river estuary separating England and Scotland. But when the photograph was developed, a figure, apparently dressed in a spacesuit, could be seen behind her. The MOD were initially disinterested, but later that summer, two men claiming to be from "the Ministry" asked to be taken to the site of the photograph before driving off. Who was the mysterious figure in the photograph? Some believe it was an alien; others suspect it was the overexposed image of Templeton's wife with her back turned to them, although Templeton himself swore that no one else was in the frame when he took the photograph.

19

PRINCES IN THE TOWER



Following the death of their father, Edward IV, in 1483, the late king's two sons, Edward V and his younger brother Richard were taken to the Tower of London by their uncle, Richard Duke of Gloucester, to

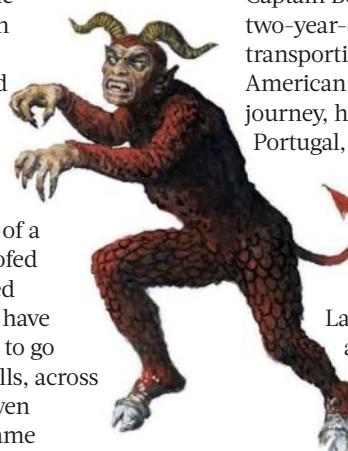
See page 78

prepare for Edward's coronation. But instead of rejoining their family, Edward and Richard disappeared, seemingly without a trace, and their uncle Richard took the throne. The mystery of their disappearance has never been solved, although most believe they were murdered. Did Richard murder his nephews to secure the throne or did the brothers escape? No direct evidence for their deaths exists but in 1674, a workman at the Tower dug up a small wooden box containing two small skeletons that were later buried in Westminster Abbey.

18

THE DEVIL'S FOOTPRINTS

On 8 February 1855, people living near the River Exe in Devon woke to a thick blanket of snow, white and untouched. Untouched by humans, that is, for littering the snow were a collection of cloven hoofprints, similar to that of a donkey. But no cloven-hoofed animal could have achieved what this beast seemed to have done. The prints appeared to go through haystacks and walls, across roofs, over the river and even up drainpipes. Locals became convinced the Devil had visited them in the night looking for sinners, and many became afraid to leave their houses.



Another theory is that an experimental balloon from Devonport Dockyard had trailed its mooring shackles across the area. Not everyone was convinced, though.

17

MARY CELESTE



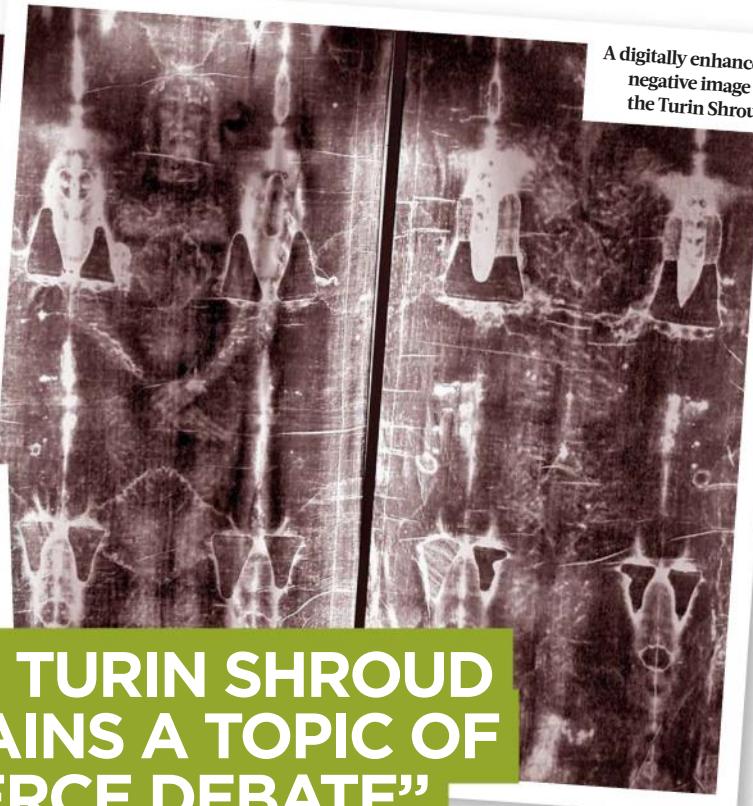
One of the most famous maritime mysteries is that of the *Mary Celeste*, a 282-ton brigantine that sailed from New York on 7 November 1872, bound for Genoa, Italy. Carrying seven crew members, as well as Captain Benjamin Briggs, his wife and two-year-old daughter, the ship was transporting a cargo of 1,701 barrels of American alcohol. About a month into its journey, half-way between the Azores and Portugal, the captain of the *Dei Gratia* spotted the *Mary Celeste* and saw instantly that it was out of control. After boarding the ship, he found it to be empty of life, with signs that the crew had left in a great hurry. Later stories of half-eaten breakfasts and steaming cups of tea found onboard are the stuff of fiction, but the chronometer and sextant were missing, as was the longboat. The crew were never found and the mystery remains unsolved.

16

THE TURIN SHROUD

An unassuming piece of linen cloth bearing the faint image of a bearded man, the Turin Shroud remains a topic of fierce debate. For some, it is the cloth in which Christ was wrapped after the Crucifixion; for others, it is a medieval forgery. The first historical record of the shroud can be found in France, in the mid-14th century, and initial carbon dating seems to support this, yet other tests have dated it to AD 300-400. How the image was transferred onto the cloth is also a mystery, as are the reddish stains, consistent with wounds from a crucifixion, that many believe are blood. For now, the shroud's origins remain a mystery, with even the Catholic Church refusing to decide officially one way or another.

The Turin Shroud on display in Turin Cathedral, Italy, 2015



A digitally enhanced negative image of the Turin Shroud

"THE TURIN SHROUD REMAINS A TOPIC OF FIERCE DEBATE"

15

KENNETH ARNOLD'S 'FLYING SAUCERS'



Sightings of mysterious unidentified flying objects (UFOs) are not a modern phenomenon

– there are even aboriginal cave paintings that appear to represent alien visitors.

But during the 1940s, there was a surge of interest in alien life, a fascination that began on 24 June 1947, when pilot Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine glowing objects flying in a 'V' formation over Mount Rainier in Washington. Arnold estimated that the UFOs, which he believed to be 45-50 feet wide, were flying at speeds of up to 1,700mph, after they were seen flying between two mountains spaced 50 miles apart in just one minute, 42 seconds.

Arnold's sighting caused a media sensation, and became a catalyst for similar reports of UFO activity across the US. Theories about the origins of the objects range from a meteor breaking up as it hit the earth's atmosphere to simply pelicans, flying in formation.

14

HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON



One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the hanging gardens are said to have been built by King

Nebuchadnezzar II, ruler of Babylon for 44 years from 605 BC, to cheer up his homesick wife, Amytis of Media. To remind his wife of her green, lush homeland, Nebuchadnezzar built an artificial mountain with rooftop gardens. The gardens probably didn't hang in the way we would understand – the name comes from an inexact translation of the Greek word *kremastos*, which actually means overhanging. The huge tiered gardens, said to have been 400 feet wide by 400 feet long and more than 80 feet high, were an incredible sight, filled with all manner of plants. Yet no trace of them has ever been found in Babylon, and there are no surviving Babylonian texts that mention them. Some historians believe the gardens were actually sited about 350 miles south of Babylon, in Nineveh, in today's central Iraq. No thorough research of the area has been possible, so the gardens' location remains a mystery.

13

EASTER ISLAND HEADS

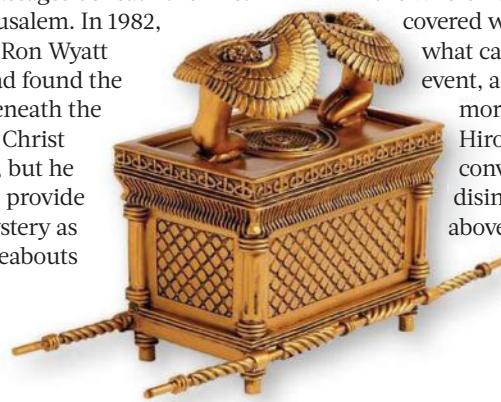
About 2,200 miles from the west coast of Chile and 2,600 miles east of Tahiti lies Rapa Nui, or Easter Island as it is commonly known, so-named by Dutch explorers to mark the day they arrived in 1722. Some 63 square miles in size, Rapa Nui is famous for the near-900 giant stone busts – known as moai – that litter the island. Averaging four metres high and weighing 13 tons, the enormous figures are believed to have been carved by Polynesian settlers between 1400-1650. But what purpose did such a vast army of stone heads have, and how were they constructed and transported? One theory is that they are representations of the indigenous people's ancestors, carved each time an important tribal figure passed away. Excavations have revealed that the Easter heads actually have bodies that have become buried over the centuries.

12

ARK OF THE COVENANT

An ornate, gilded case built some 3,000 years ago to house the two stone tablets on which Moses had written the Ten Commandments, the Bible describes the Ark of the Covenant as being the size of a 19th-century seaman's chest – about 45 inches long, 27 inches high and 27 inches wide – gold-plated and topped with two golden angels. Stories of the Ark's powers are plenty: at one point, it was captured by the Philistines who were allegedly forced to keep moving it around after mice and hemorrhoids struck the cities to which it was taken.

But the Ark disappears from the records in c597, when the Israelites were conquered by the Babylonian empire. Some believe it is hidden in Aksum, Ethiopia, in the cathedral of St Mary of Zion; others claim it lies hidden in a warren of passages beneath the First Temple in Jerusalem. In 1982, archaeologist Ron Wyatt claimed he had found the ark, buried beneath the hill on which Christ was crucified, but he was unable to provide proof. The mystery as to Ark's whereabouts still remains.



11

TUNGUSKA EXPLOSION



On 30 June 1908, a fireball 50-100m wide streaked across the sky above a forest near the Podkamennaya Tunguska river in Siberia. Some 80 million trees across a 770-square-mile area were flattened in the blast; wildlife was reduced to smoldering carcasses and a shockwave knocked people off their feet and shattered windows in towns hundreds of miles away. Eye witnesses reported observing a light almost as bright as the Sun, and heat so intense it felt as if clothing was on fire. "The sky was split in two, and high above the forest the whole northern part of the sky appeared

covered with fire..." said one observer. But what caused the so-called Tunguska event, a force that produced 185 times more energy than the atomic bomb at Hiroshima in 1945? Many are convinced it was an asteroid that disintegrated at between 3-6 miles above the earth, which would explain why no crater has ever been found. Other theories include an alien spacecraft crash.

10

JACK THE RIPPER

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Jack the Ripper is Britain's most notorious serial killer, an individual who, between 31 August and 31 December 1888 stalked the streets of London's East End, murdering and mutilating at least five women. The first victim was 42-year-old prostitute Mary Ann Nichols, whose throat was slashed twice and stomach ripped open. A week later, on 8 September, the Ripper claimed his second victim, another prostitute, Annie Chapman. Her head was nearly severed and her bladder taken as a 'trophy'. Panic swept through Whitechapel, the site of both murders. Over the next two months, three more women were brutally murdered. The last, 25-year-old Mary Jeanette Kelly, was found with her throat cut, her nose and breasts cut off and dumped on a table alongside her heart.

Many suspects have been put forward, among them lawyer Montague John Druitt, whose body was found in the Thames on 31 December 1888. Could his death explain why the killings suddenly stopped? Experts believed the killer to be someone who possessed skill with a knife, perhaps a doctor or a butcher. One theory even linked Queen Victoria's grandson, Prince Albert Victor, to the crimes, although there is little evidence for this. To this day, the Ripper has never been identified.



FAR LEFT: Jack the Ripper has also been known as Leather Apron. LEFT: Prince Albert Victor was linked to the crimes

"HER HEAD WAS SEVERED AND HER BLADDER TAKEN AS A TROPHY"



9

COPPER SCROLL TREASURE



Part of a cache of first-century documents known as the Dead Sea Scrolls – discovered in 11 caves at Qumran,

near the northern edge of the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956 – the Copper Scroll has often been described as the most important and the least understood. The only text to have been written on metal (copper mixed with about one per cent tin), it could not be unrolled conventionally, so in 1955, it was cut into 23 strips and pieced back together. Dating to between AD 25-100, the Copper Scroll contained directions to 64 locations where immense quantities of treasure could be found – a total haul of more than a billion dollars. "Forty-two talents lie under the stairs in the salt pit... Sixty-five bars of gold lie on

the third terrace in the cave of the old Washers House..." and so on it went. Hunts for the listed treasure began almost immediately, but the scroll's lack of detail has meant no one has ever found any of it. Has the treasure already been looted, or is it still buried and waiting to be found?

8

THE PHAISTOS DISC

Discovered at the palace-site of Phaistos on the Greek island of Crete in 1908, the fired clay Phaistos Disc is believed to date to 1700 BC and the height of the Minoan civilisation. Some 16cm in diameter and about 1cm thick, experts have been studying the disc for centuries, trying to decipher the unknown language inscribed on its front and reverse. Many believe the disc's 241 symbols are meant to be read in a spiral direction – from the outside edge, inwards. The most recent interpretation is that the disc may contain a prayer to a Minoan goddess, and one

researcher believes he has identified three words that may translate to 'pregnant mother', 'goddess' or 'shining mother'. However, other experts remain unconvinced, with some even proposing that the disc is, in fact, an elaborate hoax. Either way, we may never discover its true meaning.

7 BERMUDA TRIANGLE



Covering about 500,000 square miles of ocean off the southeastern tip of Florida, the Bermuda Triangle – or the Devil's

Triangle as it is also known – has seen several ships and aeroplanes disappear in mysterious circumstances over the centuries. And the Triangle is more than just a modern phenomenon. Christopher Columbus, when travelling through the area on his first trip to the New World in 1492, wrote of a great flame that crashed into the sea there and of strange lights appearing in the distance. Even Shakespeare was sufficiently intrigued by the Bermuda Triangle, with some believing his play *The Tempest* to have been written about a real Bermuda Triangle shipwreck. Over the past century alone, the Triangle has been blamed for the disappearance of at least 20 planes and 50 ships.

One of the most famous mysteries of the Bermuda Triangle was the disappearance

of five TBM Avenger Torpedo Bombers on 5 December 1945. All 14 men involved disappeared without a trace, as well as the Martin Mariners flying boat and its 13-man crew that went to search for them. Conspiracy theorists have proposed a number of possible causes for the disappearances, including paranormal activity, giant structures under the seabed causing crashes and even that the Triangle comprises the souls of African slaves thrown overboard during their journey from Africa to the US. Other more plausible theories include anomalies in the Earth's magnetic field causing equipment to malfunction, or hexagonal cloud formations capable of causing 170mph winds and waves more than 45ft high.

6 LOCH NESS MONSTER

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Scotland's most famous resident, the legend of the Loch Ness Monster (or Nessie as it is affectionately known) goes back hundreds of years to its first

recorded sighting, on 22 August 565, by St Columba. Since then, there have been more than 1,000 recorded sightings of a supposed prehistoric creature living beneath the waters of Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands.

The first purported photograph of Nessie's head and neck was taken by London gynaecologist Robert Kenneth Wilson in 1934. The photo garnered a great deal of interest and was published in the *Daily Mail*, but it is now widely dismissed as a hoax.

In 1962, dedicated Nessie hunter Tim Dinsdale helped set up the Loch Ness Phenomena Investigation Bureau, which used everything from airborne searches to echo sounders, hot-air balloons, sonar, infra-red cameras and submarines to investigate the creature's existence.

The year 1977 saw magician and psychic Anthony Shiels claim he had summoned the monster out of the water and taken a photo of it, while in 2007, a videotape emerged that appeared to show a black object about 14 metres long, moving through the waters of the loch.

Nessie sightings continue to be reported, with seven sightings recorded in 2016. But what really lurks beneath the still waters of Loch Ness?

5 KING ARTHUR

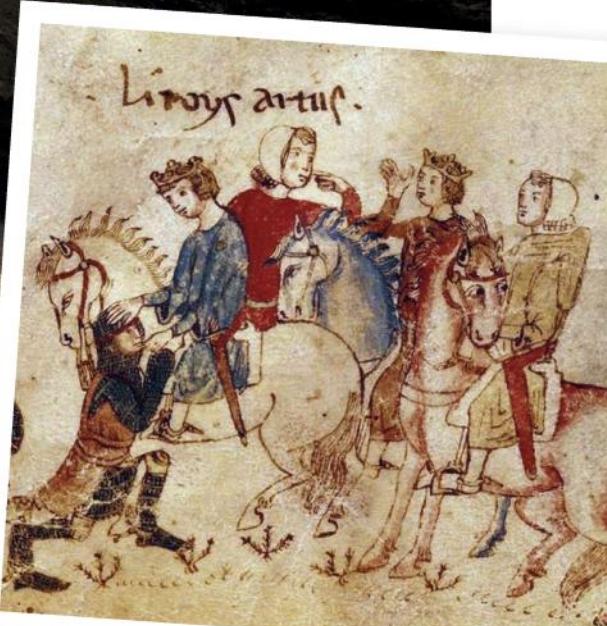
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The legendary figure of King Arthur, the Roman-Celtic leader said to have defended Britain against Saxon invaders in the late-fifth and early-sixth centuries, is one that still leaves historians divided. Details of Arthur are sketchy: he appears in folklore and literature, but hard evidence of his existence is distinctly lacking, leading some to wonder if he ever existed at all.

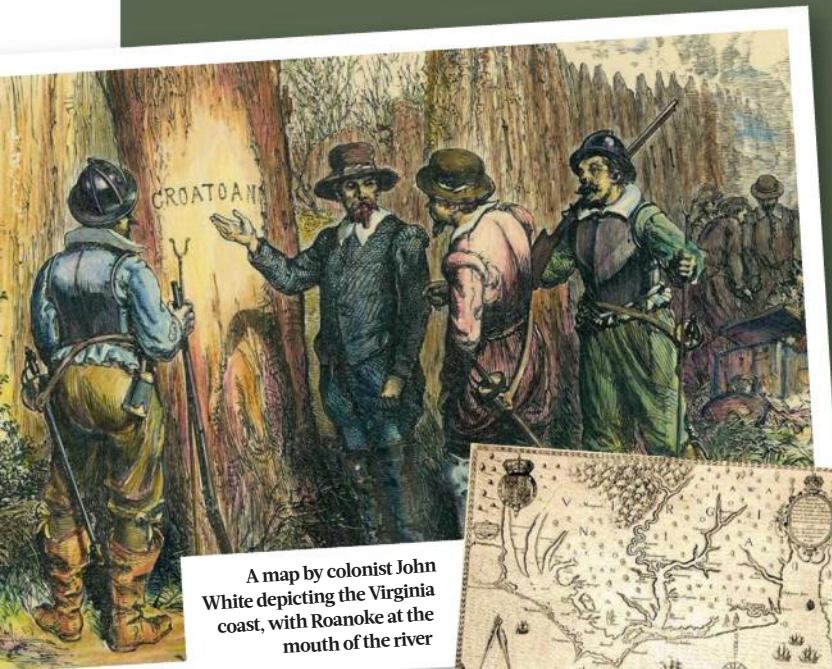
The earliest reference to Arthur is in a poem dating from the seventh to 11th century, *Y Gododdin*, which contains an elegy to Arthur. Three other historical documents, Geoffrey of Monmouth's 12th-century *Historia Regum Britanniae*, the tenth-century *Annales Cambriae* and the ninth-century *Historia Brittonum* all cite Arthur as being a real person, linking him to several battles of the time. Yet Arthur appears to be excluded from other historical accounts, leading many historians to believe he is simply a fictional hero.

Nevertheless, believers continue to search for Arthur's burial place, as well as the site of his fictional castle Camelot and the famous Round Table.

A fifth-to-sixth-century royal palace in Tintagel, the site where Arthur is said to have been conceived, was discovered in 2016



4 ROANOKE COLONY



A map by colonist John White depicting the Virginia coast, with Roanoke at the mouth of the river

The first English settlement in the New World, the Roanoke Island colony was founded by explorer Sir Walter Raleigh in August 1585. Sited in what is now Dare's County, North Carolina, the colony was set up on the orders of Elizabeth I, but after suffering dwindling food supplies and Indian attacks, the community returned to England in 1586. A second attempt to colonise was made in 1587, when 115 settlers led by an Englishman named John White set foot on American soil. Just a few weeks after their arrival, White's granddaughter became the first baby born in the New World to English parents; the future seemed bright.

Later that year, White returned to England to procure supplies for the colony, but was unable to return to America until August 1590, thanks to war between England and Spain.

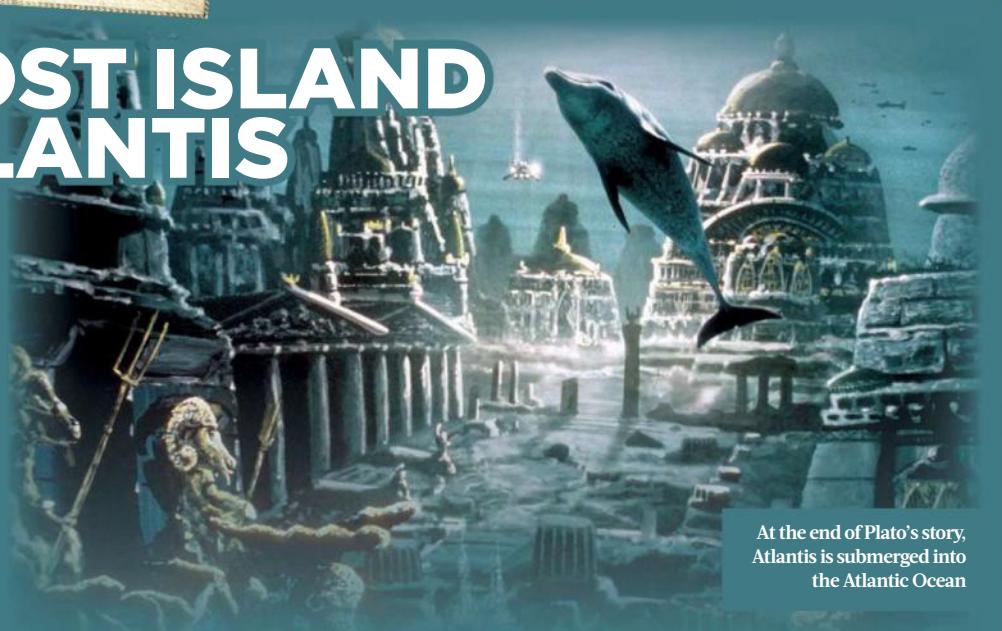
When White did finally return to the settlement, on his granddaughter's birthday of 18 August, he found it completely empty, with no trace of the colonists he had left and no sign of violence. The only clue to their whereabouts – including his own daughter and granddaughter – was the word 'CROATOAN' carved into a palisade that had been built around the complex. Assuming this meant that the men and women had moved on to Croatoan Island – now Hatteras Island – some 60 miles away, White initiated a search, but problems with the ship and bad weather forced them off course.

White eventually left for England and the mystery remains as to what happened to his family and friends. One theory, based on tree-ring data from Virginia, is that extreme drought hit the area between 1587 and 1589, contributing to the demise of the colony, although this doesn't explain where they went. Another theory is that the colonisers were absorbed into an Indian tribe known as the Croatans.

3 THE LOST ISLAND OF ATLANTIS

Since it was first mentioned by the Ancient Greek philosopher Plato in his dialogues *Timaeus* and *Critias*, the lost island of Atlantis has continued to intrigue. In his writings, composed in 360–347 BC, Plato describes Atlantis as a powerful, scientifically advanced community that was cast to the ocean floor in just one day and night after its people fell out of favour with the gods following a war with Athens. Plato describes the island as being bigger than Libya and Asia Minor put together, with a location in the Atlantic "just beyond the Pillars of Hercules", the two rocks that mark the entrance to the Straits of Gibraltar.

The mythical island dropped off the radar until the 17th century, when philosopher and scientist Francis Bacon revived the topic with his utopian novel *The New Atlantis*. In 1882, former US Congressman Ignatius L Donnelly sparked a number of hunts for the



At the end of Plato's story, Atlantis is submerged into the Atlantic Ocean

lost island with his *Atlantis: The Antediluvian World*, but no concrete evidence of its existence has been ever been found.

The idea of an island containing an advanced, utopian society of wisdom and peace, as Atlantis came to be known, continues to fascinate in literature and film, and many still believe Plato's writings to be based on fact. One theory proposes that the

island fell victim to the notorious Bermuda Triangle. Another claims that the story of Atlantis is that of the Minoan civilisation that flourished on the Greek islands of Crete and Thera (now Santorini) before a huge volcanic eruption in c1600 BC exploded millions of tons of rock, ash and gas into the atmosphere and possibly wiped out Minoan cities throughout the region.



THE HOLY GRAIL

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Said to be the cup from which Christ drank at the Last Supper, and the vessel that received the blood that flowed from his side during the crucifixion, the Holy Grail is still the most sought-after of Christian relics. A 'holy chalice' is referenced in the Bible, but it wasn't until the 12th century that the story of the 'grail' became tied up with that of King Arthur. In a poem written between 1181 and 1190, one of the Knights of the Round Table visits a mysterious castle where the grail is being guarded by the 'Fisher King'. The writer credited a source book, but the original work remains a mystery. Other writers then continued to develop the concept; according to another 12th-century poem, *Joseph d'Arimathie* by French writer Robert de Boron, the grail was brought to Glastonbury, England by Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy Judaen who supposedly recovered Jesus's body after the crucifixion. It was then buried somewhere nearby – the water is said to run red at the site of its burial.

In 2014, two Spanish researchers claimed that they had already found the grail – a 2,000-year-old jewel-encrusted onyx chalice, known as the Chalice of Doña Urraca, which has been kept at the Basilica of San Isidoro in León, Spain since the 11th century. According to the pair, the chalice was transported to Cairo by Muslim travellers before coming into the possession of Ferdinand I of Leon. Historians remain unconvinced, pointing out that there are some 200 goblets across Europe vying for the title of Holy Grail.

One other theory is that the grail is actually held at the US Bullion Depository in Fort Knox, Kentucky – perhaps the most secure building on the planet. According to legend, behind the building's 22-ton steel door and multiple security measures lies in a special room which houses the Holy Grail, the Ark of the Covenant and the True Cross.

"THERE ARE SOME 200 GOBLETS ACROSS EUROPE VYING FOR THE TITLE"



MAIN: Glastonbury Tor is thought to be a possible location of the grail. RIGHT: The Chalice of Doña Urraca has been dated to around the time of Jesus

1

Stonehenge

Today's stone circle is a masterpiece of Neolithic engineering, but the first monument at Stonehenge was a circular earthwork enclosure, built in about 3000 BC and dug with simple antler tools. Some 56 timber or stone posts were then erected inside the ditch and the site was used for cremation ceremonies. But it was in around 2500 BC that the stone monument we know today was constructed, comprising large sarsen stones and smaller stones known as 'bluestones'.

For centuries, scientists and archaeologists have puzzled over how such huge stones were transported to Salisbury Plain before the invention of the wheel. The sarsen stones – the largest of which weighs 30 tons – are sandstone and thought to have been brought from the Marlborough Downs, 20 miles away from Stonehenge. But the smaller bluestones are believed to have originated in south-west

Wales, 150 miles away – a huge distance to move such large objects. Some archaeologists believe the stones were transported by moving glaciers, but human effort via water and land is now thought to be more likely. A system of wooden A-frames, weights, timber platforms and plant fibre ropes were then used to raise the stones into place, together with precisely interlocking joints, unseen at any other prehistoric monument.

The main axis of the stones is aligned upon the solstitial axis, meaning that at the summer solstice, the Sun rises over the horizon to the north-east, close to the largest stone, while at the winter solstice, in December, it sets in the south-west. These two dates, it is believed, were of particular significance to those who built and used Stonehenge, and radiocarbon dating on animal remains found near the site has revealed that pigs were slaughtered in December or January every year, which

suggests an annual ritual around the time of the winter solstice.

The site's purpose has intrigued people for centuries. The oldest-known depiction of Stonehenge shows Merlin placing one of the top stones in place. And in 1663, physician Walter Charleton claimed that Stonehenge was built by early medieval Danes as a site for their kings to be coronated. Meanwhile, philosopher and writer John Aubrey, who surveyed the monument in around 1640, believed Stonehenge was a temple built by, and for, the Druids. Other possible uses include a centre for healing and a place of pilgrimage for the Neolithic sick. Indeed, human activity at the site predates the stones by some 4,500 years, and charcoal dating to 7000 BC has been unearthed at Stonehenge – a sign of human activity. It may even have been a huge burial site for high status people, with the stones serving as grave markers.



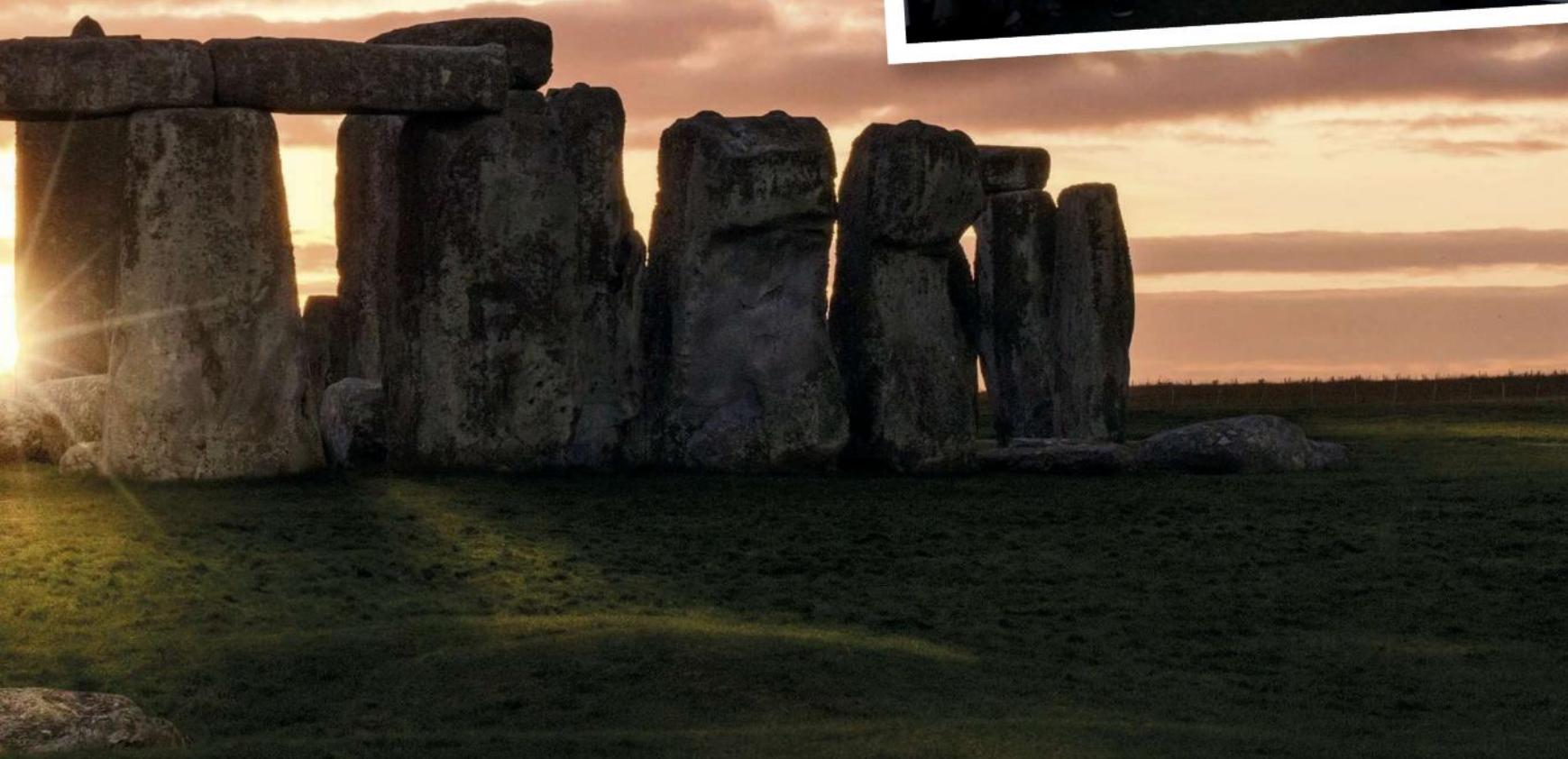
The stones are aligned with the position of the sunrise on the summer solstice, leading some to believe that Stonehenge was an astronomical clock

GETTY X3



LEFT: A fanciful 19th-century depiction of Ancient Britons celebrating a Druidic festival
BELOW: Modern-day Druids celebrate the summer solstice at Stonehenge

“JOHN AUBREY BELIEVED STONEHENGE WAS A TEMPLE BUILT BY, AND FOR, THE DRUIDS”



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MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT EGYPT

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The histories and mysteries of Ancient Egypt have held mankind in thrall for centuries - from **magnificent pyramids** that soar above the barren sands of the desert, to the cool, treasure-laden **tombs of the pharaohs**. But what is it about this ancient civilisation that still holds such fascination for so many, and what was life really like for those who lived, worked and died in the shadows of its unique monuments?

Beginning **c3150 BC** with the unification of upper and lower Egypt, and ending with the invasion of Alexander the Great in **332 BC**, Ancient Egypt's legacy lives on in the treasures, tombs, monuments, mummies and artefacts, and in the **life-giving Nile** that still weaves its way across modern Egypt.



GOLDEN BOY

So many riches were found in Tutankhamun's tomb that it took **ten years** to catalogue and remove them. Most are on display at Cairo's Egyptian Museum, including his magnificent death mask.

SYMBOL OF EGYPT

The gold death mask of Tutankhamun, with its pharaonic beard, piercing jewelled eyes and striped headdress, is one of the enduring icons of Egypt



FESTIVITIES

Banquets were popular among the Ancient Egyptian elite, as seen here in a wall painting from c1400 BC

WAXING LYRICAL

It was once believed that Ancient Egyptians wore cones of **perfumed wax** on top of their heads, which melted and perfumed the wearer. It's now thought that these cones probably symbolise something else – just what remains a mystery

1

HOW THEY LIVED

Quality of life may have depended on wealth and social class, but looking good was important to everyone

GETTY X4, ALAMY X4

Flowing north through Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea, the River Nile was the lifeblood of Ancient Egypt. Between July and September, its waters would swell with the monsoon rains of Ethiopia, flooding the land beyond its banks to create rich, fertile soil in which crops could be grown. Early hunter-gatherers began living in the Nile Valley some 120,000 years ago, but it was with the unification in c3100 BC of the lands along the Nile under one ruler that the story of Ancient Egypt began.

Ancient Egyptian society was highly stratified, headed by a pharaoh and his elite group of nobles and priests. The majority of the population seem to have been farmers, or worked in food production, but little written evidence remains of these people. Craftsmen and scribes enjoyed a higher social standing, depending on the quality of their work.

Appearance was everything, and a great deal of time and effort was put into clothing and personal grooming. Wigs of human hair

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The age most Ancient Egyptians hoped to reach. In reality, few survived beyond 40

were widely used, mainly on formal occasions. As well as allowing for ornate hair decoration, wigs worn over shaven heads also prevented the spread of head lice, an affliction that tormented Ancient Egyptians. One remedy, recorded in a medical text from c1550 BC, recommends a potion made of dates and water, served warm and then spat out. Head lice have even been found on the hair of mummies!

Cosmetics and make-up were also used widely, and were thought to have magical, and even healing powers. Men and women lined their eyes with black kohl to resemble the eye of Horus, the falcon-headed sky god who was believed to have protective powers, and symbolised good health. We now know that several of the ingredients used in Ancient Egyptian eye makeup did actually protect against eye infections caused by bacteria found in the marshy Nile area during the flood season.

Bread and beer were staple foods in Ancient Egypt, but the wealthy would have supplemented their diets with meats, vegetables and even wine. For the upper classes, extravagant banquets provided an opportunity to exhibit wealth and status – chairs, for example, were expensive items of furniture and only owned by the rich. The poor made do with the floor.

AT PLAY

HOW TO RELAX IN ANCIENT EGYPT

Ancient Egyptian leisure pursuits were not so different to our own. Board games were a popular part of life and were played across all levels of society. Although no game rules have been found, experts have made educated guesses as to how games such as Senet (pictured) might have been played. Images of people relaxing over the game have been found in Ancient Egyptian tomb scenes, and an elaborate Senet game board was even found in the tomb of Tutankhamun.

Unsurprisingly, the Nile was the focus for many leisure activities, including hunting and swimming, while paintings and carvings show that tug-of-war was a popular game with children. Music also featured prominently – a popular instrument was the double flute, made of hollow reeds. It's thought to have made a high-pitched sound, much like the flute we know today.

GAME ON
This Senet board dates from c1294-79 and belonged to a scribe



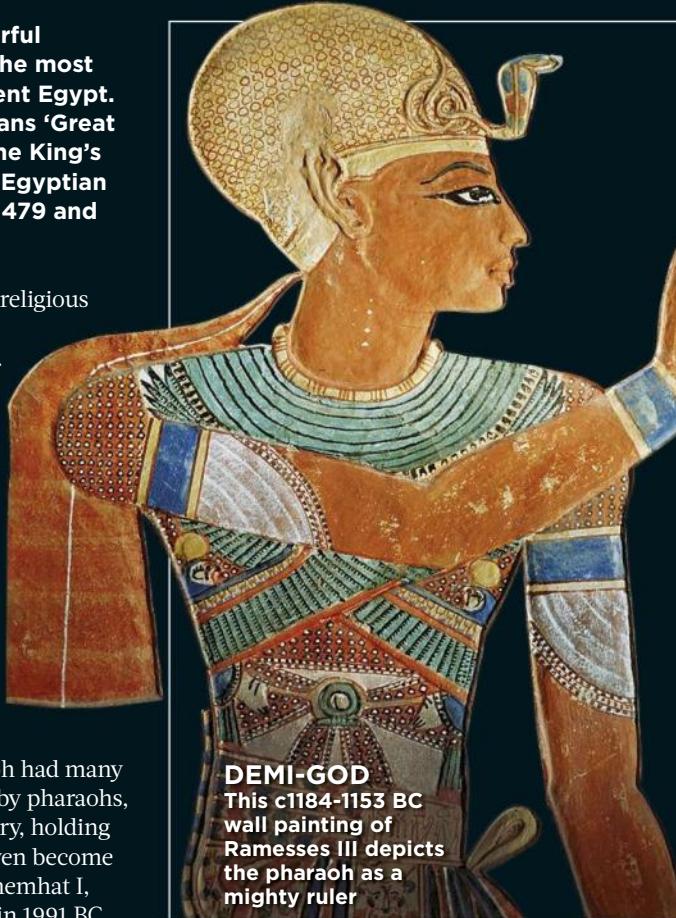
HOW THEY RULED

Expected to maintain harmony in his lands, a successful pharaoh should also placate the gods

The notion of the all-powerful pharaoh remains one of the most enduring images of Ancient Egypt. The word 'pharaoh' literally means 'Great House', originally referring to the King's palace, but became a name for Egyptian kings at some point between c1479 and c1425 BC.

Pharaohs were Egypt's political and religious leaders and were honoured as representatives of the gods on Earth. As such, they were central to Egyptian life, encompassing both the secular and the sacred, and expected to maintain the *ma'at*, or universal harmony, of their land. Protecting Egypt from foreign invasion, expanding its territories, and building monuments to honour the gods were all part of a pharaoh's duties. As long as the pharaoh had the support of the gods, no ill could befall the country; if this was lost, chaos would reign.

It was crucial, then, that a pharaoh had many trusted advisors. Viziers, appointed by pharaohs, supervised the running of the country, holding a great deal of power. Some could even become pharaoh in their own right, as Amenemhat I, former vizier to Mentuhotep IV, did in 1991 BC.



DEMI-GOD
This c1184-1153 BC wall painting of Ramesses III depicts the pharaoh as a mighty ruler

EGYPTIAN ROYALTY

HALF MAN, HALF GOD

Believed to be the son of the god Ra, it was essential that the pharaoh portray himself as a demi-god to his people, and his appearance was carefully designed to do just that.

The striped royal headdress, known as Nemes, was usually pulled tight across the forehead and tied at the back of the head. The Nekhbet vulture, symbolising Upper Egypt and a uraeus (cobra), representing Lower Egypt often featured on the headdress to show a pharaoh's authority over all of Egypt.

The shepherd's crook (designed to remind people that they were led and protected by their pharaoh) and the flail (a tool used to beat grain, which demonstrated his role as provider of food) were also potent symbols of leadership. After his death, a pharaoh was believed to unite with the green-skinned Osiris, god of the underworld, and inherit eternal life.

NEED TO KNOW

FIVE NOTABLE PHARAOHS

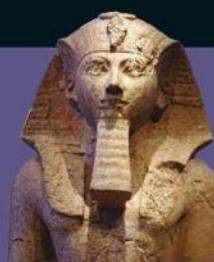
At least 170 pharaohs ruled Ancient Egypt from its beginnings in c3100 BC, and the stories of their reigns continue to amaze – from towering stone pyramids to bloody battles for the throne.



Ramesses II
c1279-1213 BC
Ruler of Ancient Egypt for 67 years, Ramesses II fathered more than 166 children by at least 100 wives, and is thought to have built more temples than any other Egyptian king. During his reign, he founded the new Egyptian capital of Per Ramessu at modern-day Qantir.



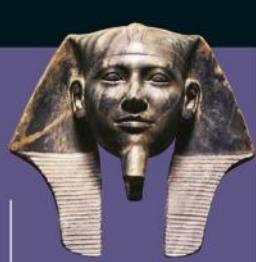
Akhenaten
c1353-1336 BC
Originally known as Amenhotep IV, Akhenaten changed his name in honour of the Sun god, Aten. Unlike other pharaohs who had themselves depicted as being physically perfect, Akhenaten had himself pictured in a more natural, human style.



Hatshepsut
c1479-1458 BC
One of Ancient Egypt's few female rulers, Hatshepsut did much to promote peace during her c19-year reign, and re-established international trading relationships. She is often depicted wearing a ceremonial false beard – a symbol of her pharaonic power.



Pepi II
c2278-2184 BC
Pepi II ascended the throne of Ancient Egypt at the age of six, succeeding his half-brother Merenre who died at an early age. While a third-century BC document credits him with a reign of 94 years, contemporary sources that date beyond the 62nd year of his reign are lacking.



Khafra
c2558-2532 BC
Khafra's granite-lined temple at Giza (the second largest of the three), was once adorned with 23 statues of the King and Horus the falcon god. The Great Sphinx of Giza, believed to have been erected by Khafra, is some 73.5 metres long and over 20 metres high (that's over five storeys).



ARCHITECTURE AHEAD OF THEIR TIME

To put the enormity of what the Ancient Egyptians achieved architecturally into context, it's helpful to look at what the rest of the world was constructing during the same period. Stonehenge in England, which began as a simple earthwork enclosure, saw its extraordinary lintelled stone circle erected in c2500 BC. Back in Ancient Egypt, however, work on the Great Pyramid of Giza had finished in c2560 BC. At 147 metres high, it was the tallest man-made structure in the world for more than 3,800 years and was constructed using some 2.5 million limestone blocks.



TEMPLE OF AMUN

These huge stone columns at the Temple of Amun at Karnak measure 21 metres in height

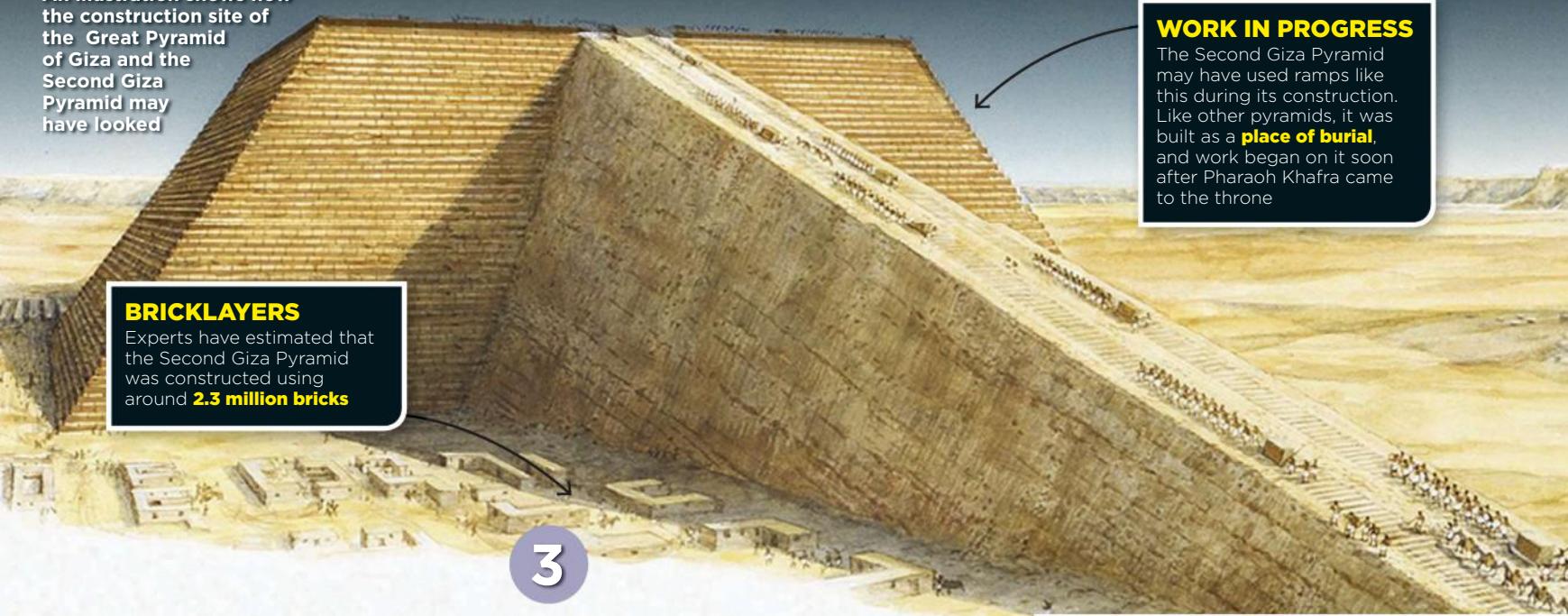


MORTUARY TEMPLE OF HATSHEPSUT

The Hatshepsut temple can be found in Deir el-Bahri, Thebes (modern-day Luxor), and consists of three layered terraces. A 37-metre causeway once led up to it

BUILDING WORK

An illustration shows how the construction site of the Great Pyramid of Giza and the Second Giza Pyramid may have looked



3

WHAT THEY BUILT

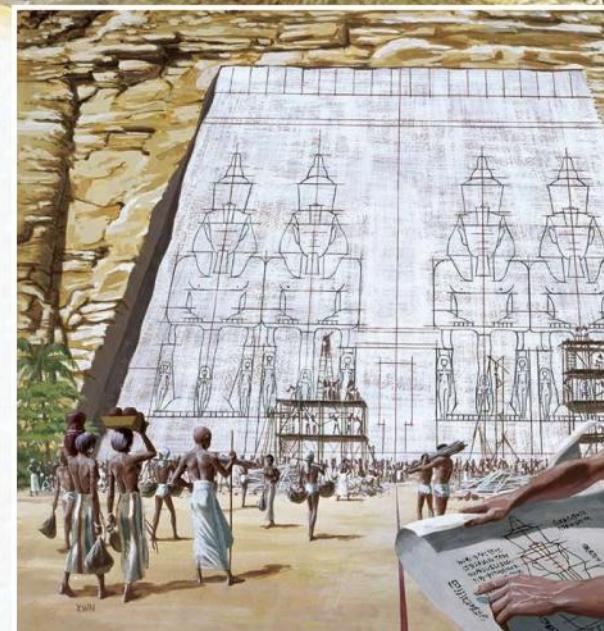
Ancient Egyptian monuments were designed to impress, and built to last

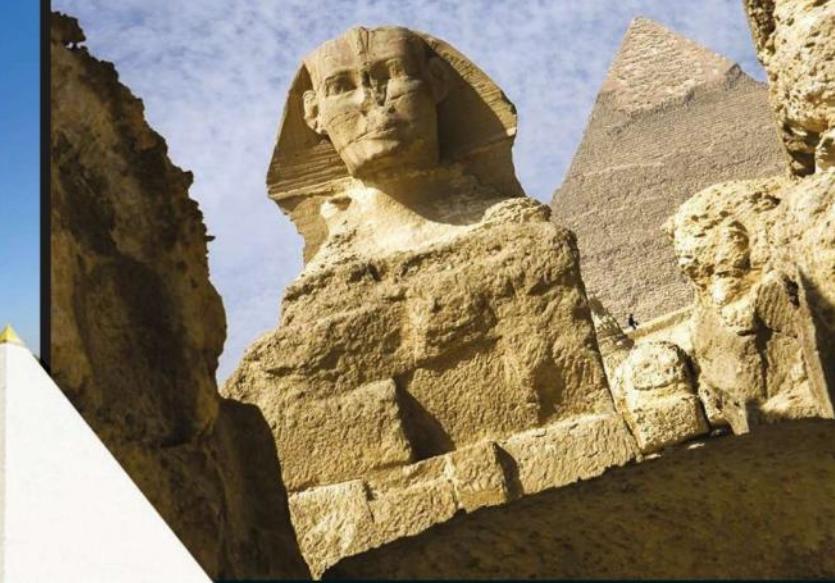
Size mattered in Ancient Egypt and nothing demonstrates this more than the magnificent temples, pyramids, tombs and monuments that still stand in the dry, arid sands of the Egyptian desert.

Wood was hard to come by in Ancient Egypt, but there was a great deal of Sun-baked mud brick and stone, and it is this that was used to build much of the country's architecture. Mud was collected from the Nile and placed in moulds before being left to dry into rough bricks. Usually used to build houses, mud bricks

have also been found in the construction of royal palaces.

Massive blocks of stone, however, which lasted longer than mud bricks and were much stronger, were used to construct Ancient Egypt's magnificent temples and the pyramids in which pharaohs were buried. Tools found in quarries indicate that one way of extracting stone to make pillars known as obelisks, was to use wooden wedges, water and stone hammers. The wood was forced into cracks in the stone and then covered in water. Once it had swollen and expanded, the wood would then crack the stone into smaller, more manageable, pieces.





COLOSSI OF MEMNON

These massive statues depict Amenhotep III and stand (or, sit) almost 20 metres tall

ENGINEERING

HOW TO BUILD A PYRAMID

How the Ancient Egyptians built the pyramids is still hotly debated; no building plans or construction methods have survived. Pyramid foundations appear to have been extremely precise (the base of Khufu's pyramid is level to 2cm) but several theories exist as to how the blocks of stone were actually laid. Ramps are thought by some to have been used, while others believe some sort of lever system may have been set up. Some Egyptologists estimate that 300 stones a day were laid during the building of a pyramid.

MADE TO MEASURE

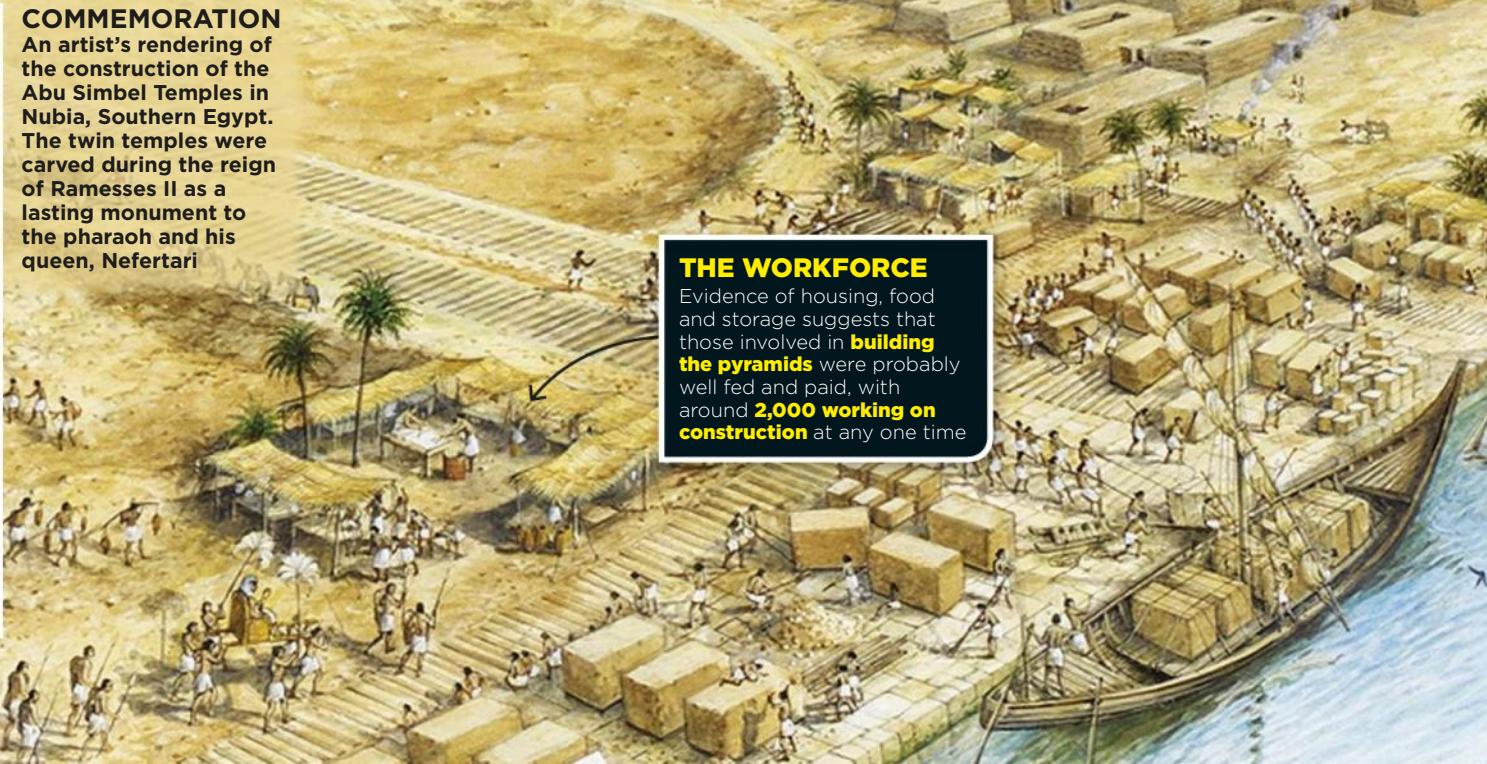
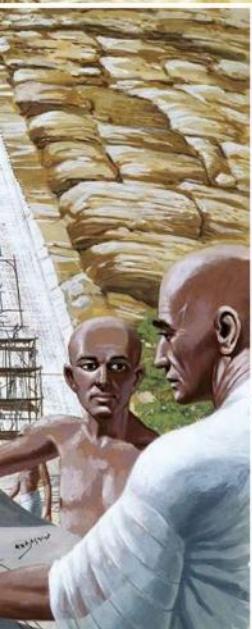
Ancient Egyptians **measured in 'cubits'** (the length from the tip of the middle finger to the elbow) **and 'hands'** (the width of the hand with the thumb at the side)

COMMEMORATION

An artist's rendering of the construction of the Abu Simbel Temples in Nubia, Southern Egypt. The twin temples were carved during the reign of Ramesses II as a lasting monument to the pharaoh and his queen, Nefertari

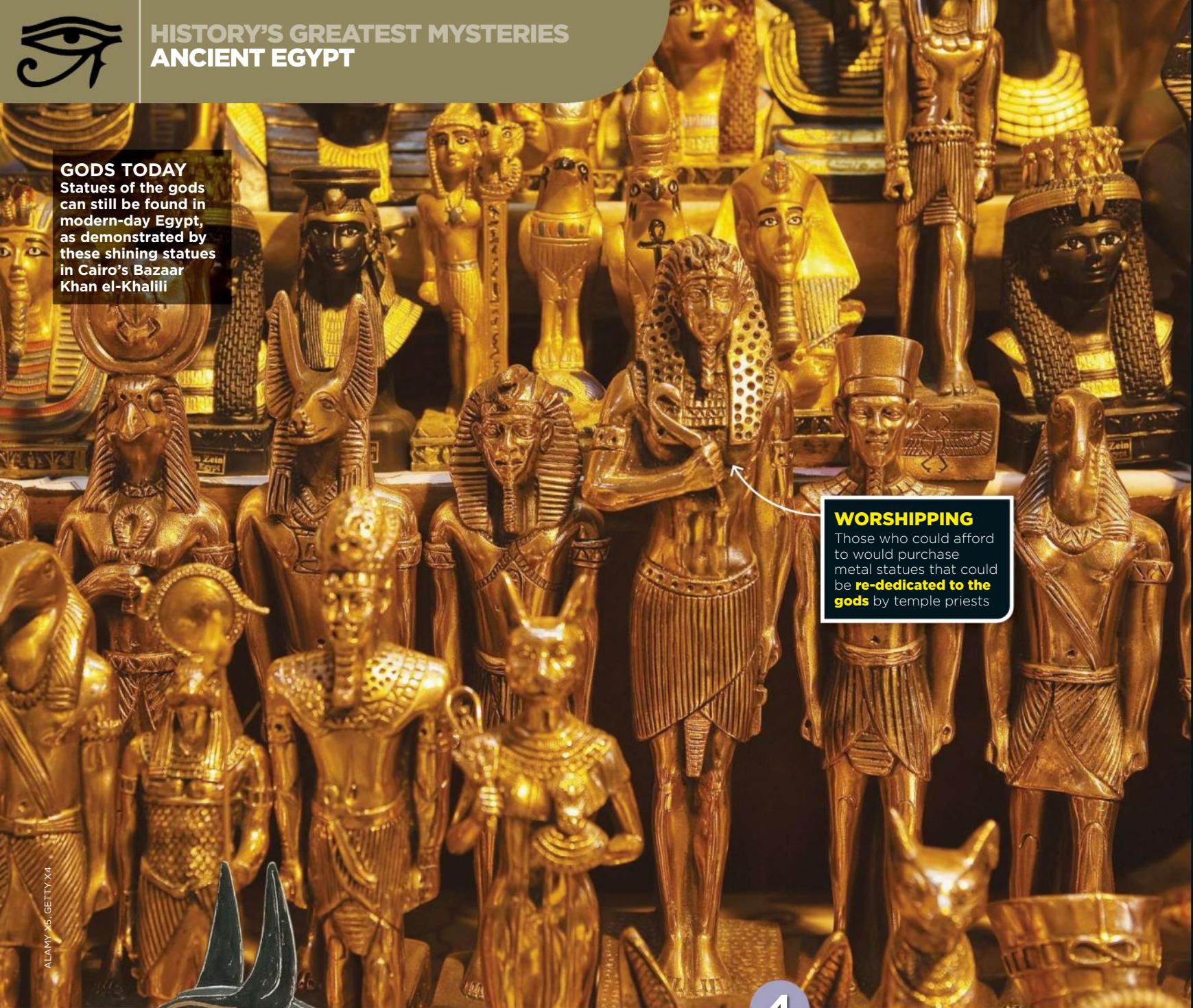
THE WORKFORCE

Evidence of housing, food and storage suggests that those involved in **building the pyramids** were probably well fed and paid, with around **2,000 working on construction** at any one time





GODS TODAY
Statues of the gods can still be found in modern-day Egypt, as demonstrated by these shining statues in Cairo's Bazaar Khan el-Khalili



WORSHIPPING

Those who could afford to would purchase metal statues that could be **re-dedicated to the gods** by temple priests

ALAMY XXL GETTY X4

4

WHAT THEY BELIEVED

Everyday life revolved around a multitude of gods who must be kept content at any cost

The Ancient Egyptians had a god or goddess for just about every aspect of life. Each deity was seen to play a specific role in maintaining peace and harmony across Egypt, and regular worship was deemed essential to keep them content. But there was no single, unified system of religious belief, and faiths and practices could vary by location and social class.

CARE OF THE DEAD

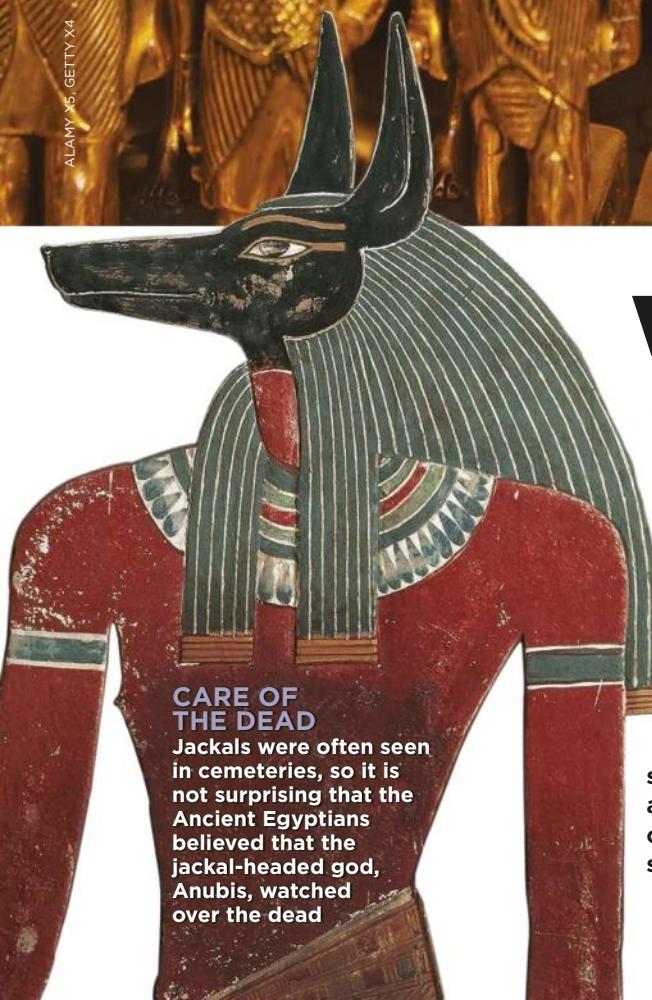
Jackals were often seen in cemeteries, so it is not surprising that the Ancient Egyptians believed that the jackal-headed god, Anubis, watched over the dead

Only priests and the pharaoh were permitted to enter certain sacred spaces in Egypt's many temples, working as intermediaries between ordinary Egyptians and the gods. The high priest would have also acted as political advisor to the pharaoh, while other, lower priests were responsible for, amongst other things, studying the universe. The King was responsible

for tending to the needs of the gods, making them symbolic offers of food, drink, clothing and ointment. The observation of festivals also played a central role in Ancient

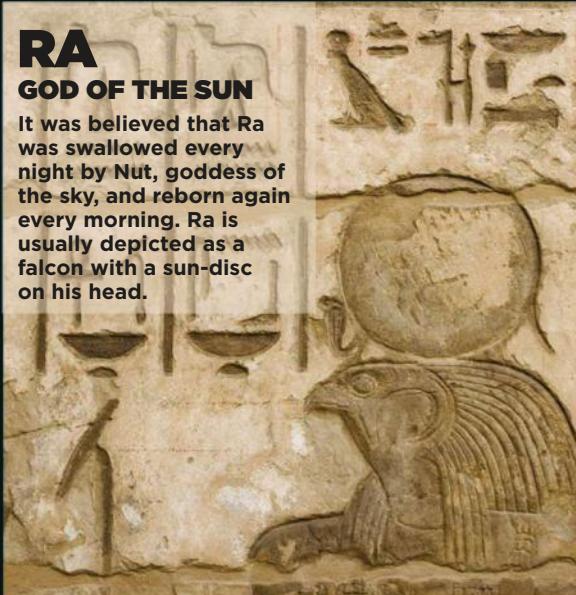
2,000

the number of Ancient Egyptian gods and goddesses - perhaps more!



SPIRITUAL GUIDES

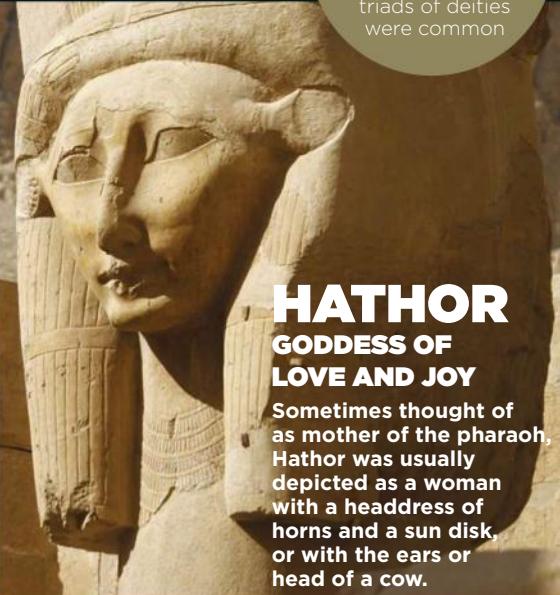
SOME KEY ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GODS



RA

GOD OF THE SUN

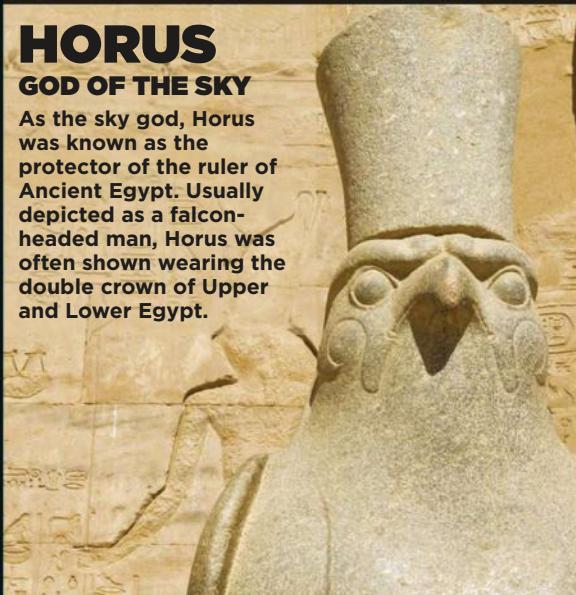
It was believed that Ra was swallowed every night by Nut, goddess of the sky, and reborn again every morning. Ra is usually depicted as a falcon with a sun-disc on his head.



HATHOR

GODDESS OF LOVE AND JOY

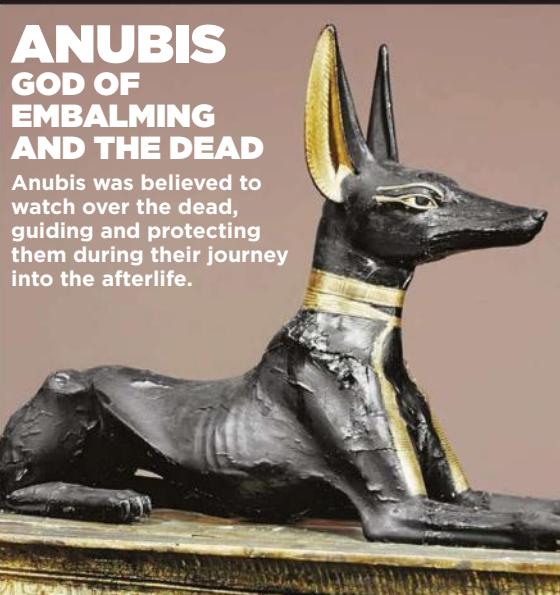
Sometimes thought of as mother of the pharaoh, Hathor was usually depicted as a woman with a headdress of horns and a sun disk, or with the ears or head of a cow.



HORUS

GOD OF THE SKY

As the sky god, Horus was known as the protector of the ruler of Ancient Egypt. Usually depicted as a falcon-headed man, Horus was often shown wearing the double crown of Upper and Lower Egypt.



ANUBIS

GOD OF EMBALMING AND THE DEAD

Anubis was believed to watch over the dead, guiding and protecting them during their journey into the afterlife.

3

was considered a sacred number in Ancient Egypt, and triads of deities were common

...AND 10 MORE



SETH

God of chaos, representing everything that threatened harmony in Ancient Egypt (pictured above)

KHEPRI

God of creation, the movement of the Sun, and rebirth

THOTH

God of writing and knowledge

NUT

Goddess of the sky, whose body created a vault or canopy over the Earth

OSIRIS

God of the dead, and ruler of the underworld

TAWARET

Protector of women during pregnancy and childbirth

TEFNUT

Goddess of moisture

KHNUM

God of creation and the yearly flooding of the Nile

PTAH

God of craftsmen

SEKHMET

Goddess of war

Egyptian life, usually consisting of a procession on land or water, and taking place at certain times of the year, such as the birthday of Ra-Horakhty (god of the rising Sun), which was celebrated on the first day of the year.

Ancient Egyptians explained their existence in the world through a complicated set of creation myths. Most of our knowledge of these comes from so-called Pyramid Texts (tomb wall directions and writings dating to c2375 BC) that explain the world emerging from an infinite, lifeless sea when the Sun rose for the first time. Many creator gods and goddesses existed to support these myths, creating the sky and other elements. Afterlife, too, played a crucial part in everyday life, since it was believed that life continued after death, once the dangerous passage through the underworld had been completed and paradise had been reached.

DIVINE FELINES

THE CAT IN ANCIENT EGYPT

From domesticated pet to revered symbol of divinity, the cat played an important role in the lives of Ancient Egyptians. On a practical level, cats were able to control the snake, rat and mice populations that threatened stores of precious grain, but they were also associated with a number of deities. The most famous of these was Bast (or Bastet), daughter of the Sun god, Ra. Depicted as a woman with the head of a cat, Bast could also appear with the head of a lioness to protect the pharaoh in battle. The city of Bubastis, chief location of worship for Bast, became a centre for pilgrims wishing to invoke her protection; sacred cats were kept in her temple as incarnations of the goddess. The Egyptians even hunted with their cats, training them to bring back prey.



MUMMIFIED MOGS

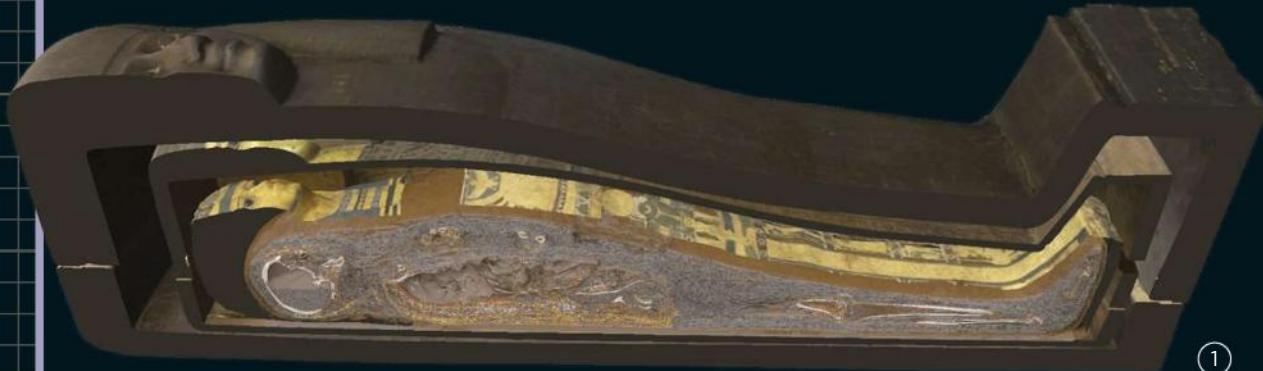
Cats were so revered that they were even mummified after their deaths, or depicted in statue form





HOW THEY DIED

Death was an important part of life for Ancient Egyptians, and preparation was essential



1



2



3



4

Egyptians believed that life after death was eternal, and treatment of the dead was designed to prepare the deceased for this in every way.

The human spirit was made up of not one, but several distinct elements, each of which had different needs in the afterlife. The elements known as the *ka* and the *ba* (what we might call the spirit) were particularly important. Mummification, therefore, was a way of creating a new, eternal body, which could continue to house a person's *ka* and *ba*. One way of helping both return to a body after death was to ensure the body was recognisable, so they used a preservation process known as embalming.

PREPARING FOR THE AFTERLIFE MAKING A MUMMY

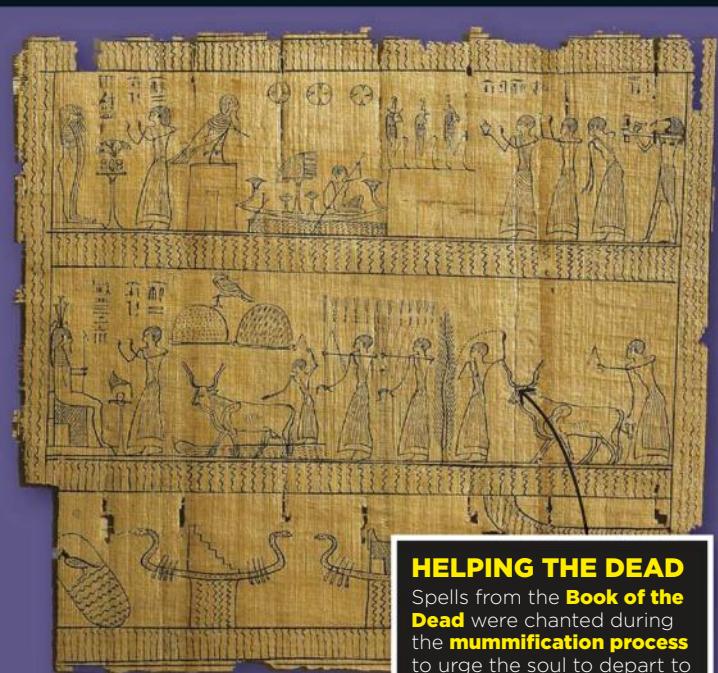
Internal organs were usually removed during mummification and placed in containers known as canopic jars, or wrapped with the mummy. The brain was discarded but the heart was usually left inside the body. The mummification process itself was complicated and it took around 70 days between death and interment to prepare a corpse for burial – much of this time was spent drying out the deceased. Natron (a compound of sodium carbonate and sodium bicarbonate) was used to dehydrate the body.



DESIGN

PLANNING YOUR COFFIN

One of the most important objects purchased for a tomb was the coffin, which was then placed inside a sarcophagus. Styles changed over time – the brightly decorated human-shaped coffin pictured above dates from c500 BC and has a foot pedestal, allowing it to stand vertically. Painted scenes and hieroglyphs gave spiritual protection to the deceased.



HELPING THE DEAD

Spells from the **Book of the Dead** were chanted during the **mummification process** to urge the soul to depart to its final resting place

LIFE AFTER DEATH

THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE

The **Book of the Dead** is a term used to describe a collection of magical spells the Ancient Egyptians believed would help them reach the afterlife. Usually written on papyrus (such as the example above, which dates to c715–332 BC), its contents were a mix of hieroglyphic script and illustrations, all carefully included to help the deceased on their journey. Spells varied greatly: some were designed to help control the body after death, ensuring that body parts were not lost on the way. Others were included as a means of protection against the animals and demons that could attack after death. Without the correct spells, the deceased could be punished and even die a 'second death', which would prevent them from ever reaching the afterlife.

SERVING THE DECEASED

Painted limestone funerary servants like these were often placed in coffins to serve their masters in the afterlife



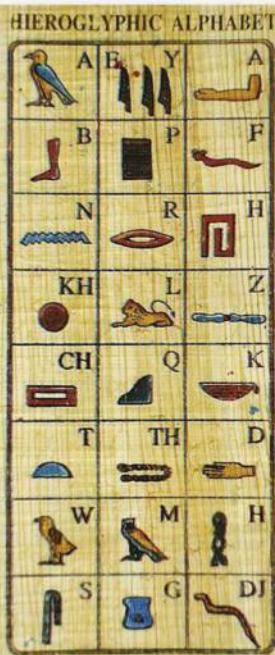
375

The amount of linen (in metres squared) thought to have been needed to wrap a mummy correctly

ANIMAL MUMMIES

Animals associated with the gods, such as cats (right) and crocodiles, were also mummified and often buried in specially designed catacombs





**c3100-3000 BC
ANCIENT EGYPT IS BORN**

Narmer (also known as Menes) unites Upper and Lower Egypt, and rules as its first pharaoh.

**c3100-3000 BC
WRITING BEGINS**

Carved symbols known as hieroglyphs begin to be used to record important events.



**c2667 BC
FIRST PYRAMID**

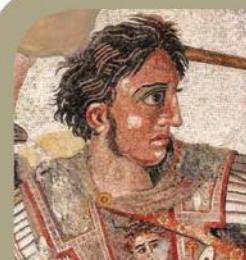
Djoser, the first powerful king of Egypt's 3rd dynasty, begins Egypt's first stone pyramid, intended to house his mummified body. By the end of his 19-year reign, the structure stands at 62.5m high.

**SOLVING
THE PUZZLE**

**HOW TO READ
HIEROGLYPHYS**

In 1799 the discovery of the Rosetta Stone (an inscribed stone known as a stela, carved in 196 BC) paved the way for the understanding of the hieroglyphic script, but it was more than 20 years after the find that the principles behind the ancient Egyptian writing were finally understood. Frenchman Jean-François Champollion, with contributions from Englishman Thomas Young, is credited with solving the mystery.

The Egyptian scribes used more than 1,000 hieroglyphic signs or symbols based on a wide range of subjects such as people, birds and trees. The hieroglyphic system was not alphabetic: one sign could represent a combination of two or more consonants, some signs were not intended to be spoken, and vowels were not written out at all. To confuse matters even more, hieroglyphs could be written from right to left, or left to right. One way to find out is to look at the direction the animal, bird or person is facing: if they are facing left, you read from left to right.

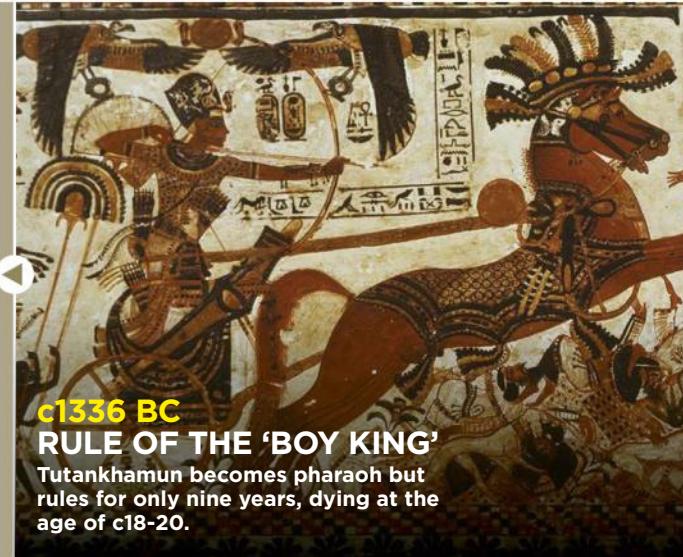


**332 BC
ALEXANDER
THE GREAT
CONQUERS**

The 25-year-old Greek King of Macedon leads his army to victory in Egypt.

**c728 BC
FIRST NUBIAN
RULER**

Piye becomes the first Nubian king to conquer Egypt, beginning the 25th dynasty. Nubian kings will rule until c669 BC when they are defeated by the Assyrians from Mesopotamia.



**c1336 BC
RULE OF THE 'BOY KING'**

Tutankhamun becomes pharaoh but rules for only nine years, dying at the age of c18-20.



**196 BC
ANCIENT
TEXT
CARVED**

The Rosetta Stone is carved with an agreement between a group of priests and the Egyptian government, using three different types of script. This stone will later be the key to the deciphering of hieroglyphs.

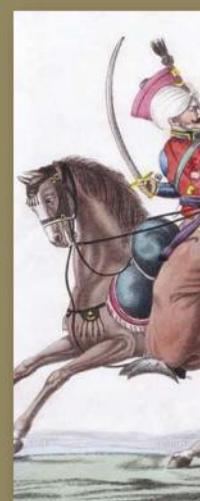
**31 BC
ROMAN RULE**

The Battle of Actium is fought between the Roman Octavian and Cleopatra VII fighting alongside Mark Antony. Egypt surrenders after the suicide of Cleopatra the following year.



**AD 969
CAIRO IS
BUILT**

The Fatimid Caliphate, a dynasty that ruled across the Mediterranean coast of Africa, conquers Egypt and the city of Cairo is founded. The city takes four years to build and serves as the new capital of the Caliphate. The city eventually becomes known as a centre of learning.



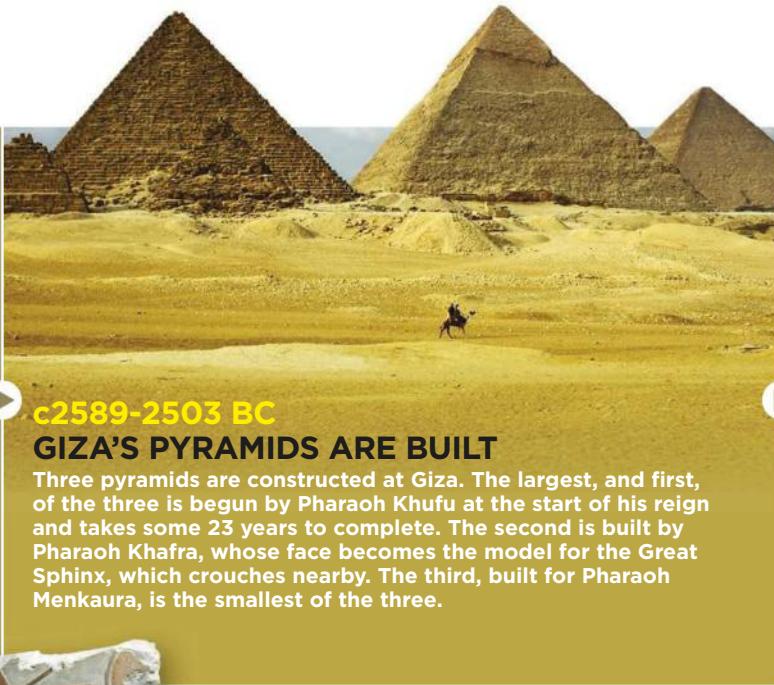
TIMELINE Ancient Egypt's

Through its dynasties and discoveries, follow the dramatic rises and falls of



c2600-2500 BC EMBALMING DEVELOPS

The process of embalming the dead is developed. Bodies are dried in a natural salt, called natron, and oils are rubbed into the skin. Linen strips are then wrapped around the body to protect it. Internal organs are removed, dried, and then placed into individual canopic jars.



c2589-2503 BC GIZA'S PYRAMIDS ARE BUILT

Three pyramids are constructed at Giza. The largest, and first, of the three is begun by Pharaoh Khufu at the start of his reign and takes some 23 years to complete. The second is built by Pharaoh Khafra, whose face becomes the model for the Great Sphinx, which crouches nearby. The third, built for Pharaoh Menkaura, is the smallest of the three.

c2494 BC CULT OF RA DEVELOPS

Userkaf, first pharaoh of the fifth dynasty, ascends to the throne. Under his reign the cult of Ra, Egyptian god of the Sun, gains huge importance. Userkaf builds the first 'Sun temple' at Abusir and the complex is expanded by his successors.



c1500 BC GUIDES THROUGH DEATH

The Book of the Dead – a tome of around 200 spells designed to protect the deceased on their journey through the underworld – is used for the first time. Written on papyrus scrolls, the book is placed inside the coffin with the mummy, or in a small hollow statue.

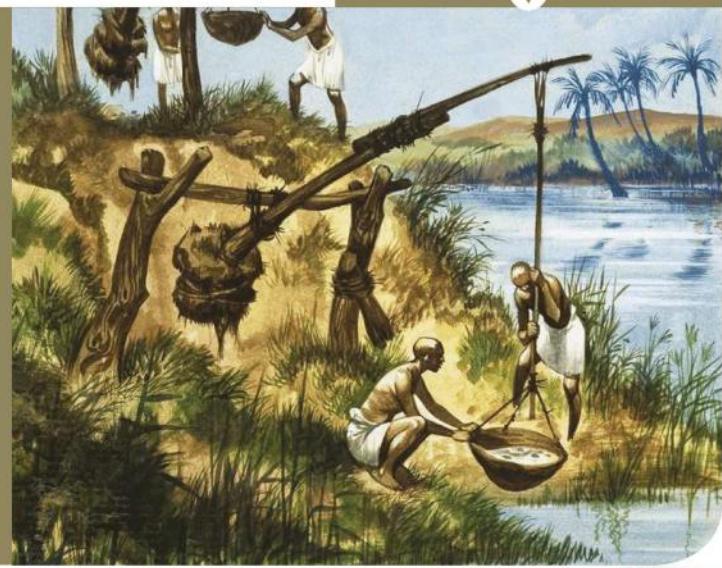


c2055 BC EGYPT UNITES

Mentuhotep II ascends the throne, reuniting the north and south of Egypt once more after years of division.

c2200 BC POWER STRUGGLES

Egypt's government collapses, and the country fragments into independent communities. Power struggles ensue and, for around 150 years, power rests with regional rulers.



1798 FRENCH INVASION

French forces under Napoleon Bonaparte invade, first capturing Alexandria before moving his troops to Cairo. Napoleon's navy is defeated by the British near Alexandria in 1801; the French army is eventually forced to withdraw from Egypt.

1869 TRADE OPENS UP

The Suez Canal, an artificial sea-level waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea, is constructed. It has significant impact on world trade, allowing all kinds of goods to be transported at an unprecedented speed.



1922 LANDMARK DISCOVERY

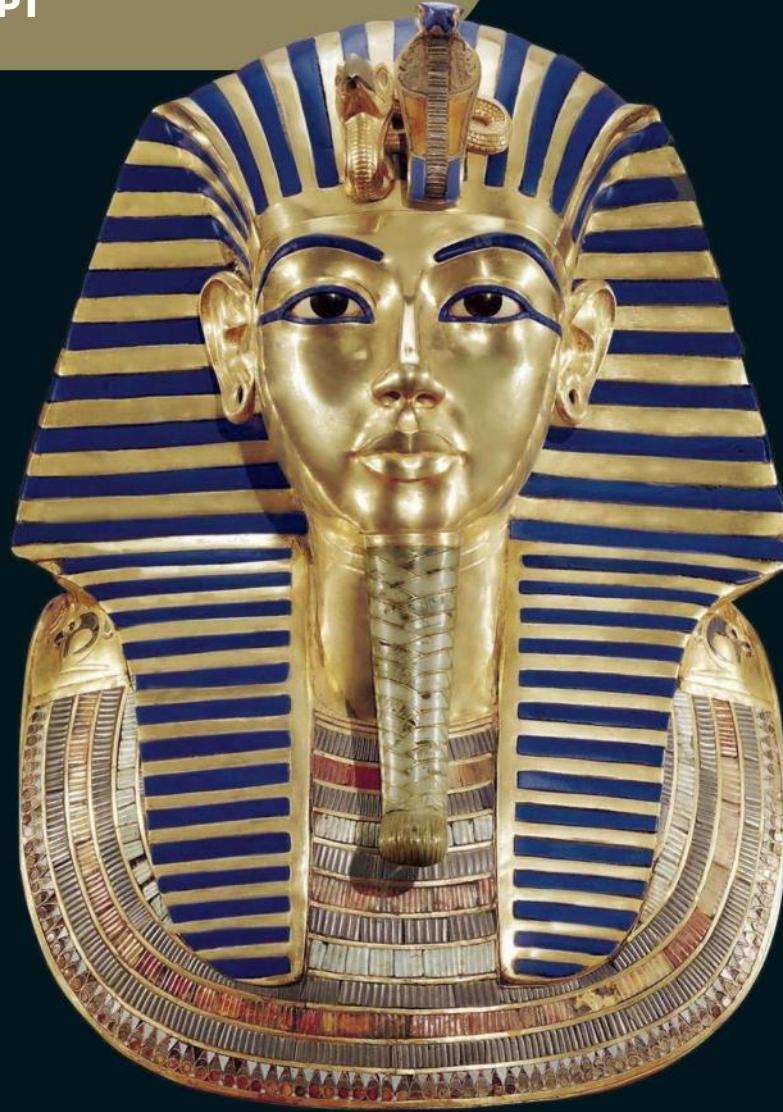
Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon open the sealed door to the tomb of Tutankhamun, the only Egyptian monarch of the New Kingdom to be discovered undisturbed in his own sarcophagus.

2011 CHAOS REIGNS

Priceless artefacts are looted from Cairo's Egyptian Museum during the Arab Spring uprising in the city. Many remain unaccounted for.



landmark events this ancient land



LIFTING THE MASK

The solid gold death mask of Tutankhamun weighs around 24lb and probably resembles the young pharaoh himself

DESTINY IN THE DESERT

One man's quest to find Tutankhamun

The dramatic story of Howard Carter's desperate search for Ancient Egypt's most enigmatic pharaoh

Deep beneath the Egyptian desert on 26 November 1922, British Egyptologist Howard Carter stood nervously before a sealed doorway. Waiting anxiously in the relative coolness of the dark, recently excavated corridor behind him were his patron, Lord Carnarvon, close friend Arthur Callendar and Lady Evelyn Herbert, Carnarvon's daughter. Above them, the barren sands of Egypt's

mysterious Valley of the Kings swirled under the relentless heat of the Sun.

The group knew it was standing inside the tomb of the 18th Dynasty king Tutankhamun - seal impressions on the tomb's now dismantled outer door attested to that. But the outer door also showed signs that it had been opened before, on more than one occasion. Would the pharaoh's tomb be intact, or had it been pillaged by grave robbers, its priceless contents gone forever?

Using his chisel, Carter made a small breach in the top left-hand corner of the doorway. Once the presence of oxygen had been determined, the hole was widened and Carter peeped through, aided by the light of a candle.

"It was sometime before one could see, the hot air escaping caused the candle to flicker", wrote Carter in his journal a while later, "but as soon as one's eyes became accustomed to the glimmer of light the interior of the chamber gradually loomed before one, with

FIRST CUT

Howard Carter and his team perform the autopsy on 11 November 1925

THE LOCATION

Tutankhamun's autopsy took place in a **makeshift 'laboratory'** in the tomb of Sethos II. The tomb is thought to have been **vandalised** after his death, c1194 BC

HOWARD CARTER

Carter was an accomplished artist, having served as a **staff illustrator** on the *Illustrated London News*

DOUGLAS DERRY

Anatomist Derry **performed the autopsy** on Tutankhamun, assisted by Carter

KING TUT

A recent study suggests that the pharaoh was **buried with an erect penis** to make him appear as Osiris, god of the afterlife, and quash attempts to install Aten as the 'one god' of Egypt



its strange and wonderful medley of extraordinary and beautiful objects heaped upon one another. There was naturally a short suspense for those present who could not see, when Lord Carnarvon said to me 'Can you see anything'. I replied to him 'Yes, it is wonderful'.

What Carter beheld was indeed wonderful. His journal describes a collection of treasures that included "two strange ebony-black effigies of a king, gold sandalled, bearing staff and mace", gold furniture, flowers, ornamental caskets and "a confusion of overturned parts of chariots glinting with gold". But the most significant discovery was a sealed doorway, set between two sentinel statues – perhaps the final resting place of the young pharaoh himself.

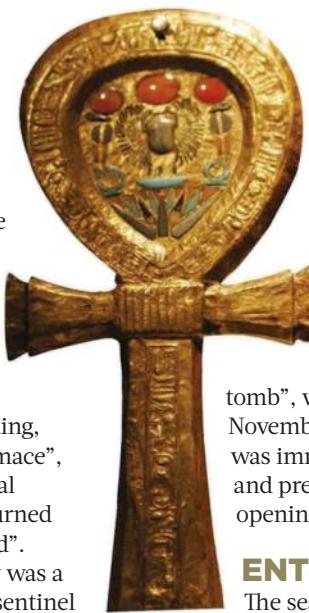
JOURNEY TO DISCOVERY

Carter's uncovering of Tutankhamun's tomb was the culmination of years of hard work, disappointment and sacrifice. In 1907, after a number of years working on excavations at Thebes, as well as a period as chief inspector of the Egyptian Antiquities Service, Carter was employed by enthusiastic amateur Egyptologist Lord Carnarvon, but their work in the Valley of the Kings did not begin until 1915. Although it was widely believed in archaeological circles that the area had already yielded all the tombs that were to be found there, Carter remained convinced that Tutankhamun's tomb lay beneath the sand.

The burial site of the pharaoh was the holy grail of Egyptology. King of Egypt for just nine years, Tutankhamun probably inherited the throne at the age of eight or nine and quickly set about restoring the old gods of Egypt that his father, Akhenaten, had replaced with the solar deity Aten. That Tutankhamun had died young was not known by the archaeologists searching for him, though; it was assumed he had died a natural death as an old man.

For seven years, Carter and his team searched for the tomb, resuming their work with even greater intensity in 1917 after the three-year break caused by World War I. But, by 1922, Carter's wealthy benefactor had lost patience with the lack of results, and Carter and his team were given one last season of funding in which to locate the tomb. It was make or break for the young archaeologist.

On 4 November 1922, the first hints of the tomb's entrance were found, located beneath the remains of workmen's huts built during Egypt's Ramesside Period of c1292-1069 BC (named after the 11 pharaohs who took the name of Ramesses). The entrance comprised a sunken staircase of some 16 steps, located about four metres below the entrance to the nearby



PRICELESS PIECES

This gold-sheathed mirror case from the pharaoh's tomb is cast in the shape of the Egyptian hieroglyphic 'life'

tomb of Ramesses VI.

"It was a thrilling moment for an excavator... to suddenly find himself, after so many years of toilsome work, on the verge of what looked like a magnificent discovery – an untouched tomb", wrote Carter in his diary for 5 November 1922. An encrypted telegram was immediately sent to Lord Carnarvon and preparations began in earnest for the opening of the tomb.

ENTERING THE TOMB

The sealed doorway through which Carter had viewed so many Ancient Egyptian treasures, was opened on 27 November, some three weeks after the initial discovery of the tomb's entrance. As the group entered the room – later known as the Antechamber – illuminated by an electric light rigged up for the occasion, they were confronted by what Carter described as "a heterogeneous mass of material crowded into the chamber without particular order, so crowded that you were obliged to move with anxious caution, for time had wrought certain havoc with many of the objects..."

Many of the items were overturned, or had been broken, presumably by an early intruder, but the quality, richness and number of the pieces within was undeniable. Beneath a gilded couch in the south-west corner of the room another sealed doorway was discovered, "broken open as by some predatory hand". Crawling underneath the couch and peering through the opening, Carter and Carnarvon saw yet another chamber (later named the Annexe) full of furniture, statuettes, alabaster and faience vases, again in a state of chaos that suggested a would-be thief hunting for valuables. But as well as their plethora of objects, both chambers were also notable in another sense: their lack of mummy or mummies. This could mean only one thing – that the group was standing in the anterior portion of the tomb. The tomb chamber of Tutankhamun must lay beyond a sealed doorway, located between two guardian statues first spotted through the initial breach in the doorway the previous day.

WORK BEGINS

Much needed to be done before the team could enter the third, sealed room – the burial chamber of Tutankhamun. Wadding, calico, stationery, boxes and other essential materials were ordered to allow the precious antiquities in the both the tomb's Annexe and



GUARDING THE KING

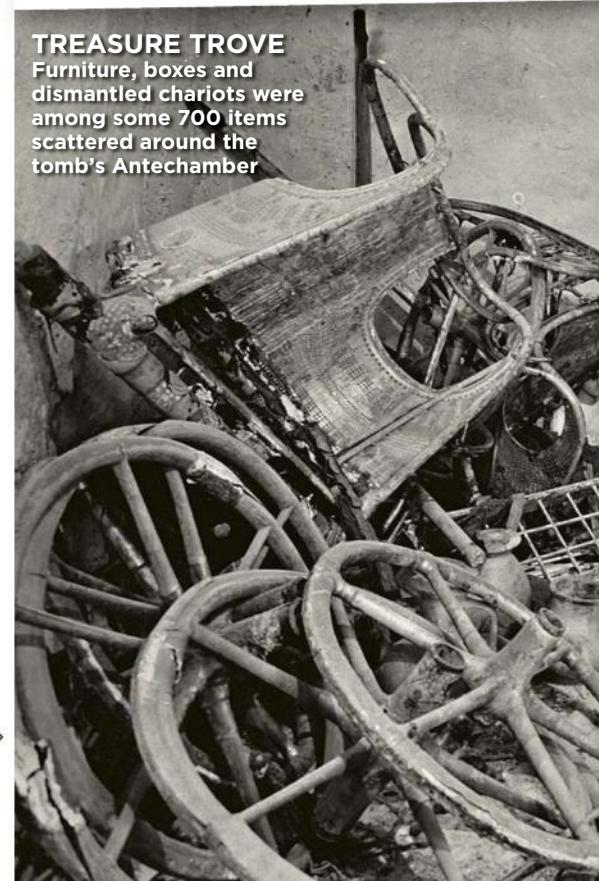
The double doors to the second shrine were **decorated with depictions of Tutankhamun** before Osiris (god of the afterlife) and Ra-Horakhty (the Sun god)

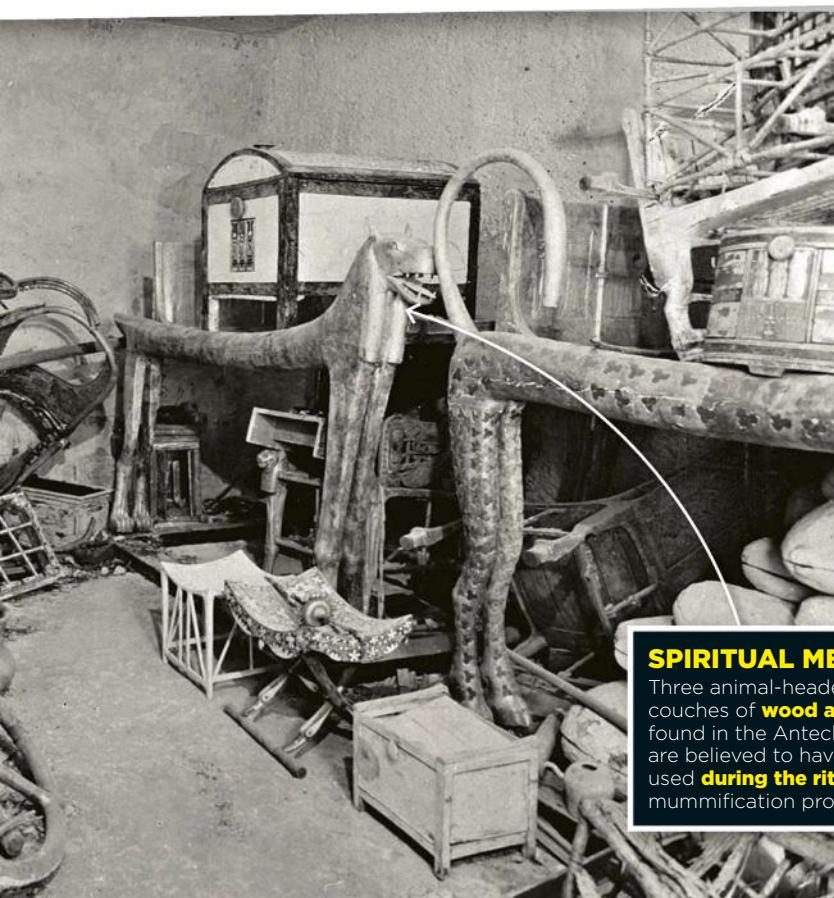
FINDING THE PHARAOH

Carter opens the doors of the second of four gold shrines that surround the sarcophagus of Tutankhamun

TREASURE TROVE

Furniture, boxes and dismantled chariots were among some 700 items scattered around the tomb's Antechamber





SPIRITUAL MEANING
Three animal-headed couches of **wood and gold**, found in the Antechamber, are believed to have been used **during the rituals** and mummification process

INSIDE THE COFFIN

UNRAVELLING THE MYSTERY

What secrets did Tutankhamun's mummy reveal?

Tutankhamun's mummified body was unwrapped in 1925, revealing a corpse of around 5ft 6in, with a slight curvature of the spine.

X-rays performed in the sixties showed that Carter and his team had actually amputated parts of the King's body – including the head – in order to extract precious objects contained within the wrappings.

DNA testing has suggested that a combination of malaria

BARE BONES
The wizened face of one of Egypt's most famous Kings

and avascular necrosis (a disease resulting from the loss of blood supply to the bones) may have caused his early death. Another popular theory suggests that the young pharaoh was killed following an accident – possibly involving a chariot.



THE AFTERMATH

THE CURSE OF TUTANKHAMUN

Many still believe the Ancient Egyptian King left more than just treasure for later archaeologists...

With coverage of the discovery given exclusively to *The Times*, it didn't take the press long to find a sensational angle to Carter's Egyptian quest – namely in the form of a 'pharaoh's curse', which would punish those who had disturbed the resting place of the Egyptian monarch.

The death of the expedition's patron, Lord Carnarvon, some five months after the tomb was first discovered sent the media into a frenzy. Carnarvon had, in fact, died of blood poisoning caused by an infected mosquito bite.

Newspapers reported that at the exact time of Carnarvon's death, all the lights in Cairo had gone out, and his dog, Susie, allegedly let out a great howl and dropped dead. Some even suggested that the mosquito that had bitten Carnarvon had feasted on the pharaoh's embalming fluids.

Three more notable deaths often attributed to the curse

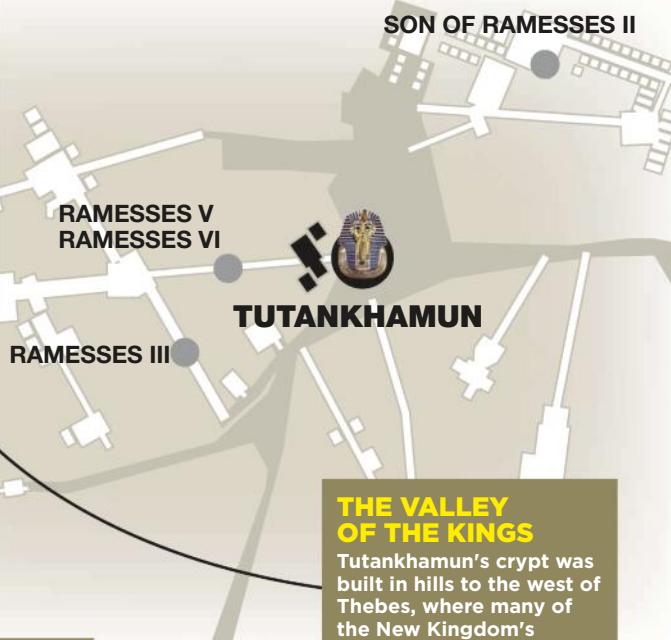
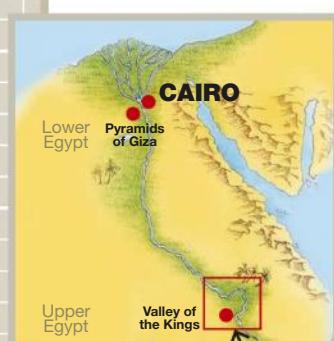
Arthur Mace: member of the excavation team. Died in 1928.

Sir Archibald Douglas-Reid: radiologist who x-rayed Tutankhamun's mummy. Died in 1924 from a mysterious illness.

Richard Bethell: Carter's personal secretary. Found dead in his bed in November 1929.



MYSTERY DEATH?
Some still believe that Lord Carnarvon, pictured here in the 1910s, was cursed by the pharaoh



ENTRANCE

The entrance to the tomb was discovered under the remains of workers' huts. Sixteen steps led down into the first corridor

THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

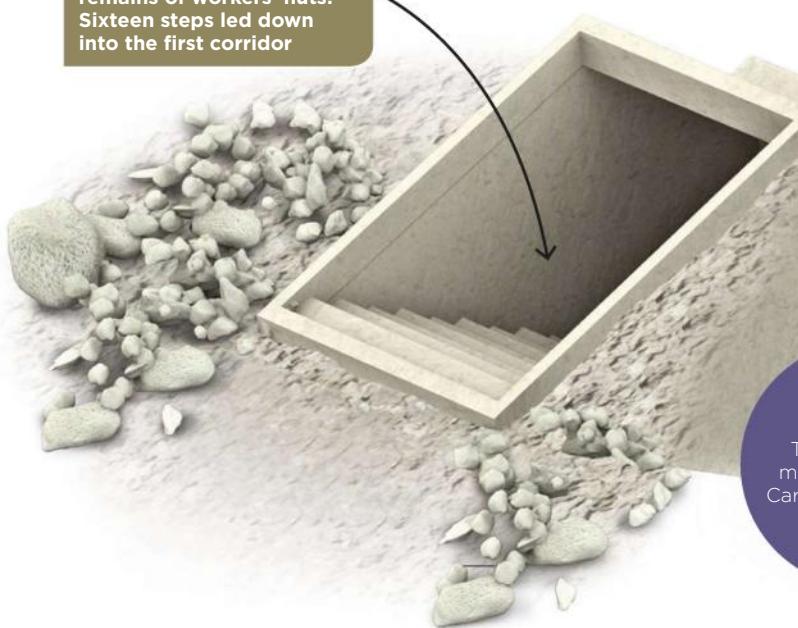
Tutankhamun's crypt was built in hills to the west of Thebes, where many of the New Kingdom's pharaohs chose to pass into the underworld

ANTECHAMBER

The first room entered by Carter, the Antechamber, contained chariot pieces and two ebony statues that flanked the entrance to the burial chamber

5,398

The number of objects found in the tomb. They covered all aspects of Ancient Egyptian life



35

The number of model boats that Carter and his team found inside the tomb

CORRIDOR

The corridor leading to the Antechamber was littered with rubble and valuable artefacts, probably left behind during a robbery

FIRST TO THE TOMB

How Carter nearly lost the race to the pharaoh

Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered far later than many other Ancient Egyptian pharaohs', but remained untouched. It's likely that the King's burial was crammed into the unsuitable non-royal tomb because of his unexpected early death.

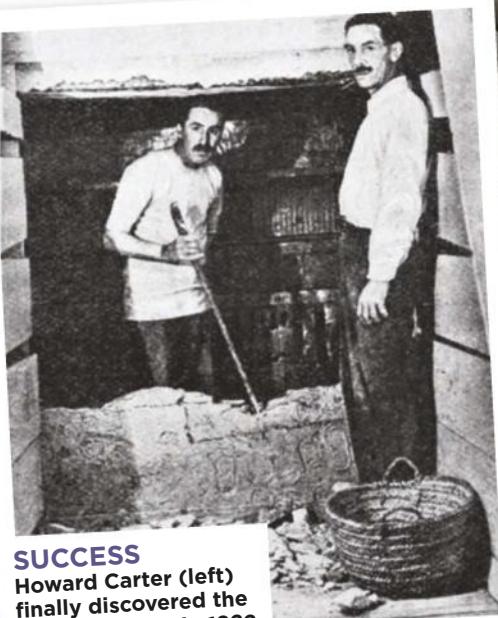
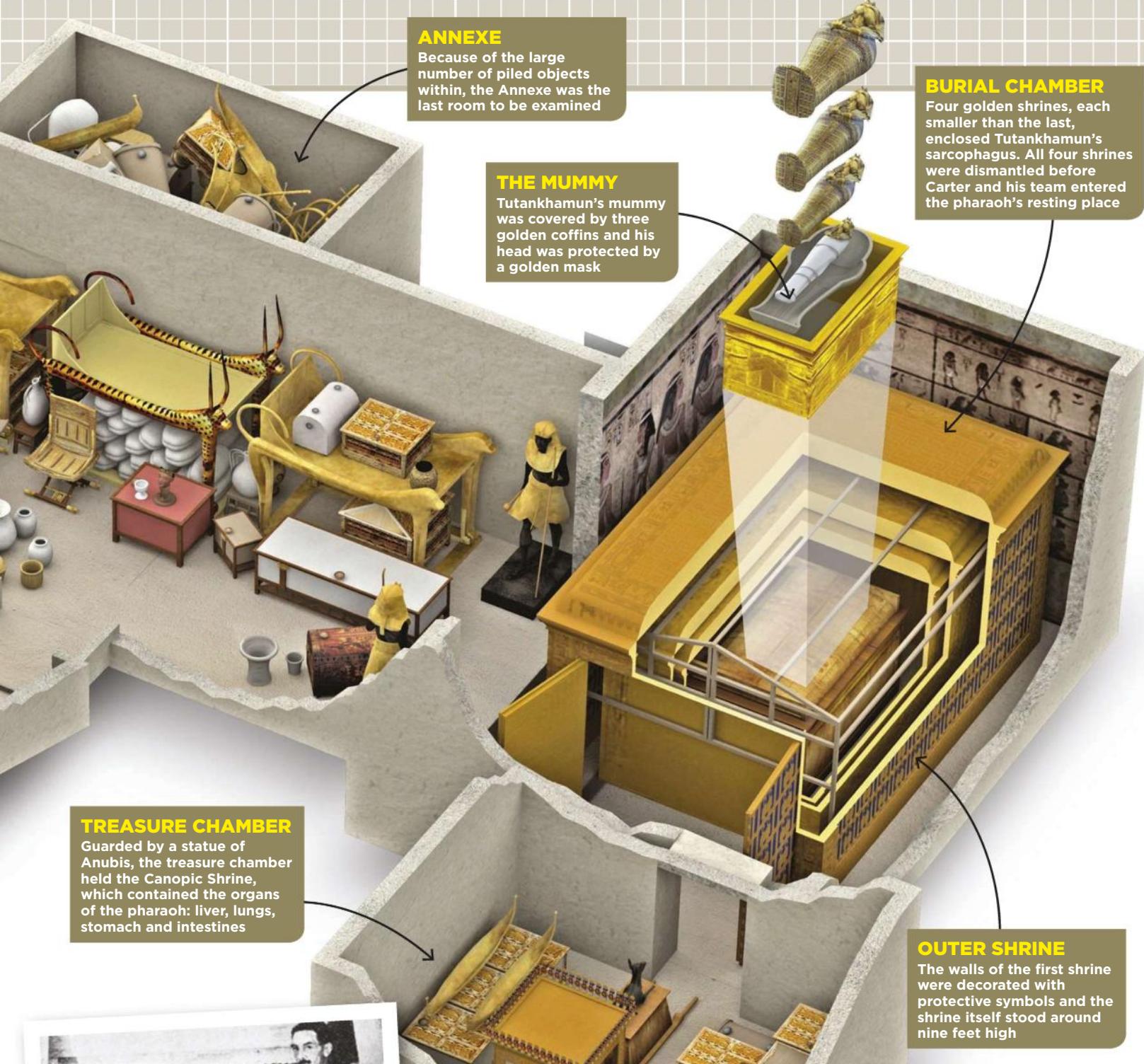
The tomb was probably robbed at least twice in the months that followed the

initial burial, with perishable items such as perfumes and oils taken. Its entrance eventually became covered with stone debris generated by the building of other tombs nearby.

Theodore M Davis, an American businessman, was very nearly the first to find the tomb. In 1907, he discovered a

small pit in the area of the then-unknown tomb, filled with grave goods and funerary equipment belonging to Tutankhamun.

The cache, which is believed to have been buried by those early robbers, offered a vital clue that the young pharaoh's tomb was probably concealed somewhere nearby.



**LORD CARNARVON:
“CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?”**
**HOWARD CARTER:
“YES, IT IS WONDERFUL”**



INVESTIGATION
Carter and an
assistant examine
the sarcophagus of
Tutankhamun

AS THE CHAINS STRETCHED AND THE LID SLOWLY ROSE, A MASS OF CLOTH WAS REVEALED

Antechamber to be catalogued, packed and transported for further examination. Egyptian officials, the press and other notable visitors flocked to the site to offer their congratulations, hoping for a glimpse of the treasure trove within: all were refused entry. Two and a half months later, on 16 February 1923, both rooms had been cleared and Carter, with a trembling hand, prepared to knock down the partition wall that separated the Antechamber from the burial chamber.

"The temptation to stop and peer inside at every moment was irresistible and when, after about ten minutes' work, I had made a hole large enough to enable me to do so, I inserted an electric torch. An astonishing sight its light revealed, for there, within a yard of the doorway, stretching as far as one could see and blocking the entrance to the chamber, stood to what all appearance was a solid wall of gold", wrote Carter later in his journal.

Two hours later, and the "solid wall of gold" was found to be a huge gilt shrine decorated with inlaid panels of brilliant blue faience (a type of ceramic). Funerary emblems surrounded the shrine, while at the north end could be found the seven magic oars the King was thought to need in order to ferry himself across the dark waters of the underworld.

Unlike the previous rooms, the walls of the burial chamber were decorated with brightly coloured scenes and inscriptions. Four such shrines, each smaller than the last, like a nest of

Russian dolls, were subsequently uncovered and carefully dismantled before, on 3 January 1924, Carter saw his first glimpse of the enormous crystalline sandstone sarcophagus, guarded at each corner by carvings of the four goddesses of the dead: Isis, Nephthys, Neith and Selket.

TUTANKHAMUN REVEALED

On 12 February 1924, more than 3,000 years after it was first laid in place, the heavy lid of the sarcophagus was lifted, a day that Carter had waited years to arrive. As the chains stretched and the lid slowly rose, a mass of cloth was revealed within, covering what appeared to be a large human-shaped coffin. When the fabric was carefully rolled down to reveal its head, there was an audible gasp from spectators.

"The coffin when it had been laid bare was a perfectly magnificent sight", wrote expedition team member Arthur Mace, "covered throughout with gold and beautifully worked. From the forehead projected the heads of the royal uraeus and vulture, the emblems of the two kingdoms... The face, beautifully modelled, and evidently a real portrait, was covered with thick sheet gold... The hands were crossed upon the chest. In the right was the flail: in the left the crook sceptre."

Never before had a monarch of Ancient Egypt's New Kingdom been found undisturbed in his own sarcophagus, and with his tomb so intact. Carter's hunch had been right; his quest was complete. ☀



EXPERT VIEW

"THERE ARE STILL SOME MISSING ROYAL TOMBS..."

Egyptologist and archaeologist Joyce Tyldesley explores our enduring love for Ancient Egypt

What is it about Ancient Egypt that fascinates us so much?

A vast amount of evidence allows us to 'look' at the Ancient Egyptians in a way that we cannot do for other past societies. We know their names, and can understand their lives, their hopes and their fears. This makes them seem very close to us.

Why was the discovery of Tutankhamun so significant?

His tomb was the first excavation to take place under intense media scrutiny. The young pharaoh became an international celebrity and Egyptology acquired a popularity that was reflected in western fashion, architecture and fiction.

How did other ancient civilisations see the Egyptians?

As the dominant civilisation in the Eastern Mediterranean for some 3,000 years, the Ancient Egyptians were respected for their religious knowledge, their medical skills, and the fertility of their land. They traded with, and occasionally conquered, their neighbours.

Are there any Ancient Egyptian mysteries yet to be solved?

There are still some missing royal tombs, including those of queens that must have been associated with the royal harem palaces. It would be wonderful to find those!

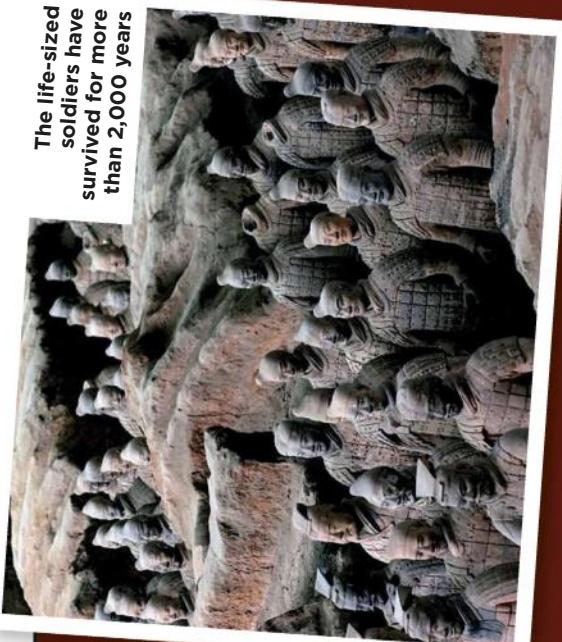


HEADING OUT
A porter carries a bust
of the boy king from
the tomb under guard



25

The life-sized
soldiers have
survived for more
than 2,000 years



GRAPHIC HISTORY

Excavating China's archaeological marvel

UNCOVERING THE TERRACOTTA ARMY

Four months after its discovery in March 1974, work began in earnest on digging up the Terracotta Army – the thousands of clay warriors buried to protect the first Emperor of China in the afterlife

WHO BUILT THEM?

NAME: Qin Shi Huang
LIVED: c259-210 BC

TITLE: First Emperor of Qin (221-210 BC)
RELATIONSHIP STATUS: Single – he was the only Chinese Emperor not to take a wife
KNOWN FOR: Creating the first unified Chinese Empire, starting the Great Wall and building a vast mausoleum – where the Terracotta Army stand guard.

7
THE NUMBER
OF METRES
UNDERGROUND
THAT THE
SOLDIERS
WERE BURIED

EXCAVATIONS AND EXECUTIONS

Excavation in one of the three pits had to be halted in 1985 when a worker stole the head of one of the warriors. He was executed for his crime.

RANK AND STYLE

The warriors' hairstyles reveal their status. Essentially, the fancier the hair, the higher the rank.

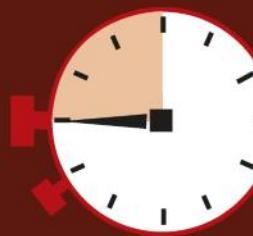


IT TOOK THE SAP
FROM 25 TREES
TO LACQUER
JUST ONE OF
THE WARRIORS.



BODY PAINTING

The warriors were decorated in bold colours, after a layer of tree sap was applied. Paint would be mixed from bone pigments, eggs and other natural materials. Azurite created the colour blue, cinnabar made red and iron oxide created orange.



CONSERVING COLOUR

It's a race against time for the excavators to save any colour that remains on the statues – the lacquer under the paint begins to curl after 15 seconds out in the air and flakes away within four minutes.



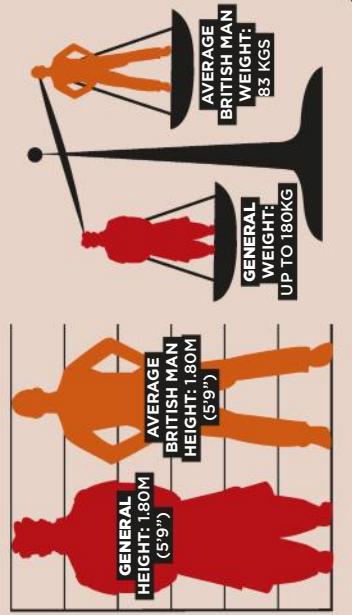
STRIKE IT LUCKY

Farmers outside of Xi'an discovered the Terracotta Army, one of the most significant finds in history, while digging a well in 1974. By uncovering the warriors, they secured a long-forgotten part of China's imperial history. Not bad for a day's work!

THE FINER THINGS

Along with soldiers and warfare equipment, the find boasts clay statues of items to symbolise leisure, including 46 aquatic birds, dancers, musicians and acrobats.

VITAL STATS



= 100 There are an estimated **8,000** soldiers across three pits – but there could be 5,000 more.

ISLAND TOMB

The site covers around 22 square miles – that's the same size as Manhattan Island.



RESTING PLACE

The Emperor was buried in an impressive mausoleum complex in Xi'an, Shaanxi province of China.

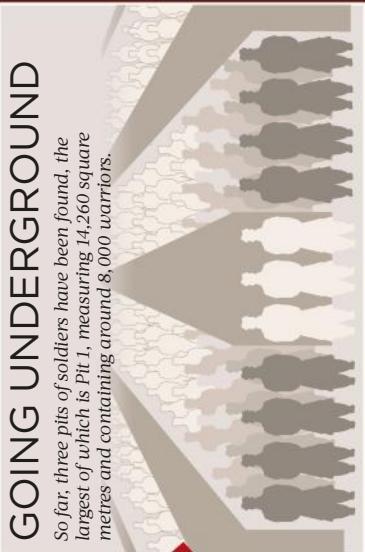
QIN'S MAUSOLEUM

The Emperor himself is buried entombed in a shallow pyramid, which is largely yet to be excavated.



GOING UNDERGROUND

So far, three pits of soldiers have been found, the largest of which is Pit 1, measuring 14,260 square metres and containing around 8,000 warriors.





THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

As the pinnacle of antiquity's ability in engineering, architecture and artistic beauty, they still cast their shadow over human endeavour today. **Jonny Wilkes** explores

They consist of a pyramid, a mausoleum, a temple, two statues, a lighthouse and a near-mythical garden. Individually, the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World can be regarded as astounding architectural achievements or marvels of human imagination and engineering – but together, they form an ancient travel guide, there to challenge the limitations of the time and, literally, reach for the skies.

Despite only being a short-lived collection – the last to be completed, the Colossus of Rhodes, stood for less than 60 years – and one of them, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, possibly not existing at all, the Wonders continue to capture imaginations and drive archaeologists and treasure hunters. They laid the foundations for what humans could achieve. Yet for all

their fame, there are many questions surrounding these classical creations. Who decided what constituted a 'Wonder' in the first place?

As Greek travellers explored the conquests of other civilisations, such as the Egyptians, Persians and Babylonians – which is why the Seven Wonders are all around the Mediterranean Rim – they compiled early guidebooks of the most remarkable things to see, meant as recommendations for future tourists. They called the landmarks that bewildered and inspired them *theamata* (or 'sights'), but this soon evolved to the grander name of *thaumata* – 'wonders'.

Is there only one list? The Seven Wonders we know today are an amalgamation of all the different lists from antiquity. The best-known versions come from the second-century-BC poet Antipater of Sidon, and mathematician

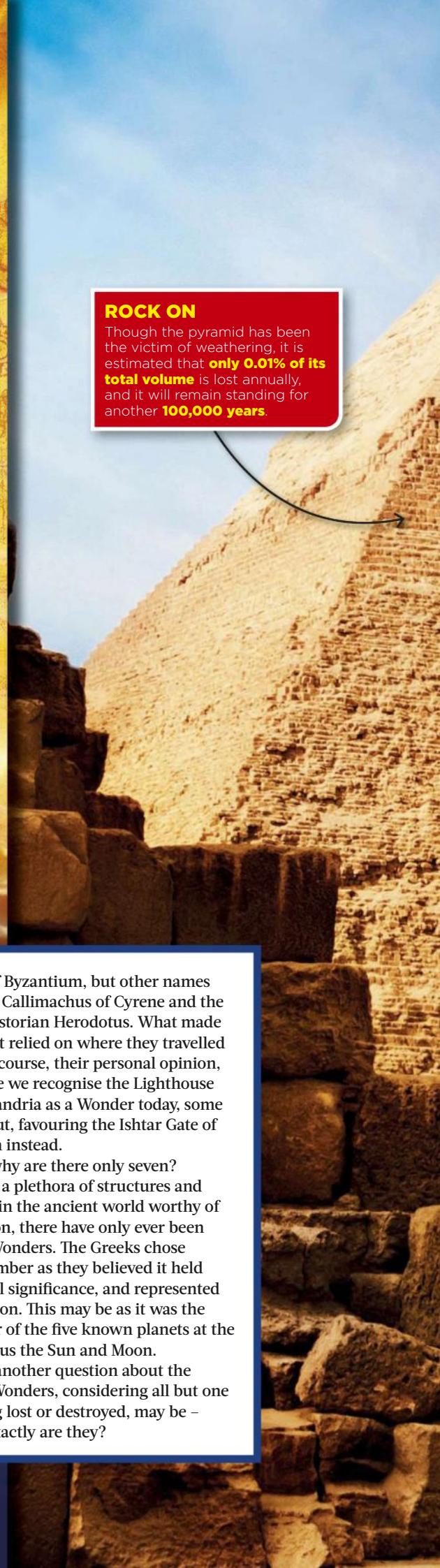
Philo of Byzantium, but other names include Callimachus of Cyrene and the great historian Herodotus. What made their list relied on where they travelled and, of course, their personal opinion, so while we recognise the Lighthouse of Alexandria as a Wonder today, some left it out, favouring the Ishtar Gate of Babylon instead.

But why are there only seven? Despite a plethora of structures and statues in the ancient world worthy of inclusion, there have only ever been seven Wonders. The Greeks chose this number as they believed it held spiritual significance, and represented perfection. This may be as it was the number of the five known planets at the time, plus the Sun and Moon.

And another question about the Seven Wonders, considering all but one are long lost or destroyed, may be – what exactly are they?

ROCK ON

Though the pyramid has been the victim of weathering, it is estimated that **only 0.01% of its total volume** is lost annually, and it will remain standing for another **100,000 years**.



GREAT PYRAMID OF GIZA

Get a room full of people to name the Seven Wonders and most would name the Great Pyramid of Giza first. A recent survey went further and suggested that it is, in fact, the only Wonder many could name. The reason is simple enough – while the other six have been lost for centuries, the Great Pyramid of Giza still stands proudly in northern Egypt.

While Wonders such as the Lighthouse of Alexandria (a narrow tower) and the Colossus of Rhodes (anchored just by the feet of the statue), were never that stable, the 13-acre base of the pyramid is wide and solid, allowing the oldest Wonder to be the only Wonder.

Built in c2500 BC as the tomb of the fourth-dynasty pharaoh Khufu, it is the largest of the three Giza pyramids. Its original height of 146.5 metres (481 feet) made the pyramid the tallest human-made structure in the world until Lincoln Cathedral eclipsed it in the 14th century. The years have seen the outer layer of limestone erode – cutting almost eight metres (27 feet) off the height – but the pyramid remains one of the most extraordinary sights on the planet. Recent estimates suggest that it took around 14 years to transport and place the 2.3 million stone blocks.

Just how the pyramids were built – or how, 4,000 years ago, Egyptians aligned their structures with the points of the compass – remains the subject of debate. How can anyone question the Great Pyramid's position as one of the Seven Wonders, if some of the theories behind its construction even point towards alien intervention?

“THE SEVEN WONDERS LAID THE FOUNDATIONS FOR WHAT HUMANS COULD ACHIEVE”

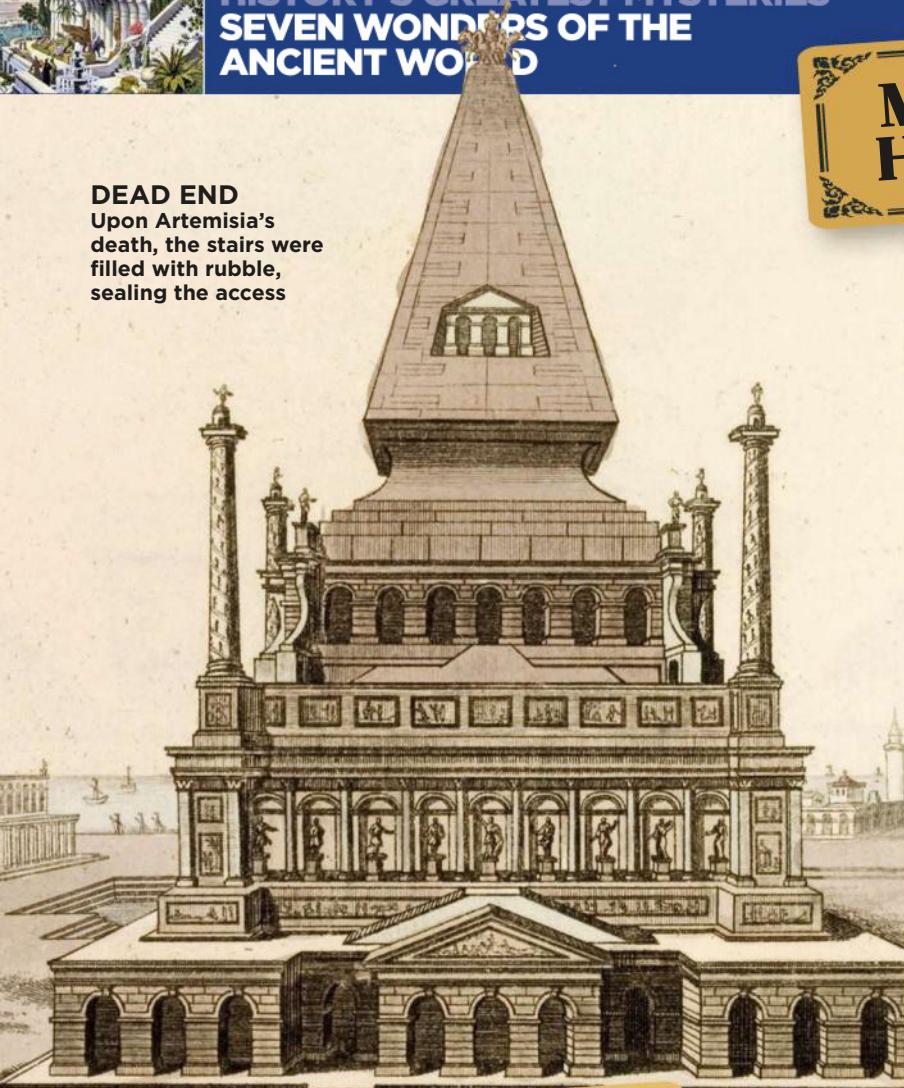
PYRAMID SCHEME

Despite claims of slave labour, it is thought that the Great Pyramid was built by skilled workers at the times when the Nile flooded their farms



DEAD END

Upon Artemisia's death, the stairs were filled with rubble, sealing the access



STATUE OF ZEUS

Olympia – a sanctuary in Ancient Greece, the site of the first Olympic Games and the home to a Wonder. And what better way to respect the chief god of the Ancient Greeks than to build a giant statue of him? That's what sculptor Phidias did when he erected his masterpiece at the Temple of Zeus at Olympia, in c435 BC.

Zeus sat resplendent on a throne made of cedar wood and decorated with gold, ivory, ebony and precious stones. The god of thunder held a statue of Nike, the goddess of victory, in his outstretched right hand and a sceptre with an eagle perched on top in his left. He was further adorned with gold and ivory, meaning that the temple priests had to oil the statue regularly to protect it from the hot and humid conditions of western Greece. Such was the size of the statue, almost 12 metres (39 feet) high, that it barely fitted inside the temple, with one observing, "It seems that if Zeus were to stand up, he would unroof the temple."

For eight centuries, people would voyage to Olympia just to see the statue. It survived the madness of Roman emperor Caligula, who wanted it brought to Rome so that its head could be replaced with his own likeness, but Zeus was eventually lost. It may have happened with the destruction of the temple in AD 426, or been consumed in a fire after being transported to Constantinople.

MAUSOLEUM OF HALICARNASSUS

Over the course of his life, the powerful Mausolus built a magnificent new capital for himself and his wife Artemisia at Halicarnassus (on the western coast of modern-day Turkey), sparing no expense to fill it with beautiful marble statues and temples. There was no question that he, being the *satrap* (governor) of the Persian Empire and ruler of Caria, would enjoy similar luxury after he died in 353 BC.

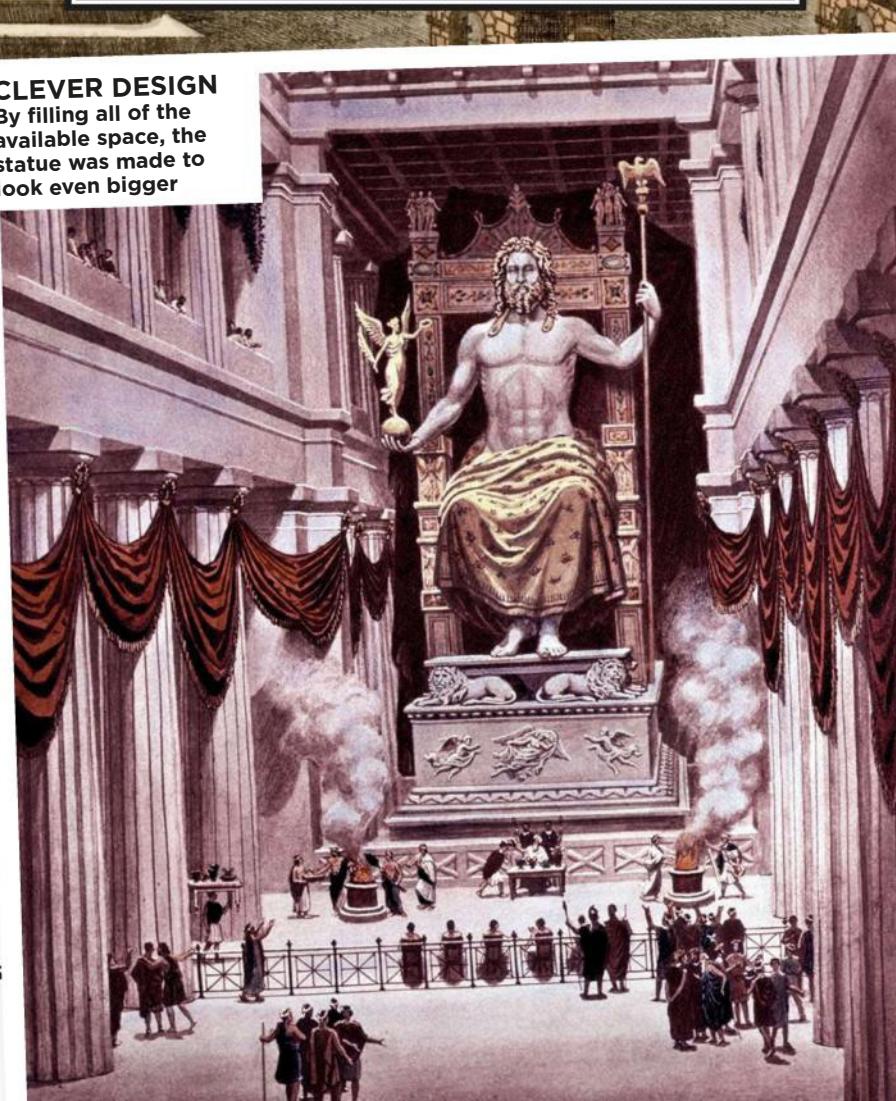
Artemisia (also Mausolus's sister) was supposedly so grief-stricken by her husband's death that she mixed his ashes with water and drank them, before overseeing the building of his extravagant tomb. Made of white marble, the monumental structure sat on a hill overlooking the capital he had built.

It had been designed by Greek architects Pythius and Satyros and boasted three levels – combining Lycian, Greek and Egyptian architectural styles. The lowest was around 20 metres (66 feet) high, forming a base of steps that led to the second level, ringed by 36 columns. The roof was in the shape of a pyramid, with a sculpture of a four-horse chariot on top bringing the height of the tomb to around 41 metres (135 feet). Four of Greece's most renowned artists created other sculptures and friezes to surround the tomb, each decorating a single side.

The tomb may have been destroyed by earthquakes in medieval times, but a part of it lives on to this day – such was the splendour of Mausolus's final resting place that his name led to the word 'mausoleum'.

CLEVER DESIGN

By filling all of the available space, the statue was made to look even bigger



"THERE IS STILL NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON EXISTED AT ALL"

INSPIRED BY NATURE
The gardens were made to resemble the mountainous green landscape of Media



HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON

Detailed descriptions may exist in many ancient texts, both Greek and Roman, but no other Wonder is more mysterious than the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

All accounts, after all, are second-hand, and there is still no conclusive evidence that they existed at all. If they were real, they demonstrated a level of engineering skill way ahead of its time, as keeping a garden lush and alive in the deserts of what is now Iraq would have been no small feat.

One theory is that the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar II had the

Hanging Gardens created, in c600 BC, to help his homesick wife, who missed the greenery of her Median homeland (now Iran).

They may have been an ascending series of rooftop gardens, with some of the terraces supposedly reaching a height of around 23 metres (75 feet). This gave the impression of a mountain of flowers, plants and herbs growing out of the heart of Babylon. The exotic vegetation would have been irrigated by a sophisticated system of pumps and pipes, bringing water from the Euphrates river.

Philo of Byzantium describes the process of watering the gardens:

LOST IN TRANSLATION

The name 'Hanging Gardens' may be a **mistranslation** of the Greek word 'kremastos', which not only means 'hanging' but also **overhanging**, as is the case with the terraces.

"Aqueducts contain water running from higher places, partly they allow the flow to run straight downhill and partly they force it up, running backwards, by means of a screw," which includes an early 'Archimedes Screw'. "Exuberant and fit for a king is the ingenuity, and most of all, forced, because the cultivator's hard work is hanging over the heads of the spectators."

Recently, it has been postulated that the Hanging Gardens did exist, but not in Babylon. Dr Stephanie Dalley of the University of Oxford claims that the gardens and irrigation were the creation of the Assyrian king Sennacherib for his palace at Nineveh, 300 miles to the north and on the Tigris river.



Lighthouse of Alexandria

Boats sailing into the harbour of Alexandria found it a tricky prospect, thanks to shallow waters and rocks. A solution was needed for the thriving Mediterranean port (on the coast of Egypt) – founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC, hence the name – and it came in the shape of a lighthouse on the nearby island of Pharos.

Greek architect Sostratus of Cnidus was handed the job, which took well over a decade, with construction finished in the reign of Ptolemy II, c280-70 BC. It is thought that the lighthouse reached a height a little under 140 metres (459 feet), making it the second-tallest human-made structure of antiquity behind the Great Pyramid of Giza. The tower was divided into a square base, an octagonal midsection and a cylindrical upper section, all connected by a spiral ramp so that a fire could be lit at the top. This was allegedly visible 30 miles away. Greek poet Posidippus described the sight: "This tower, in a straight and upright line, appears to cleave the sky from countless stadiums away... throughout the night, a sailor on the waves will see a great fire blazing from its summit." This design became the blueprint for all lighthouses since.

Like some of the other Seven Wonders, the lighthouse fell victim to earthquakes. It managed to survive several major shocks, but not without heavy damage that led to it being abandoned. The ruins collapsed for good in the 15th century. That wasn't the last of the lighthouse, however, as French archaeologists discovered massive stones in the waters around Pharos in 1994, which they claim formed part of the ancient structure. Then in 2015, Egyptian authorities announced their intention to rebuild the Wonder.



SMOKE & MIRRORS

During the day, a mirror at the apex reflected sunlight while the fire was not lit

TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

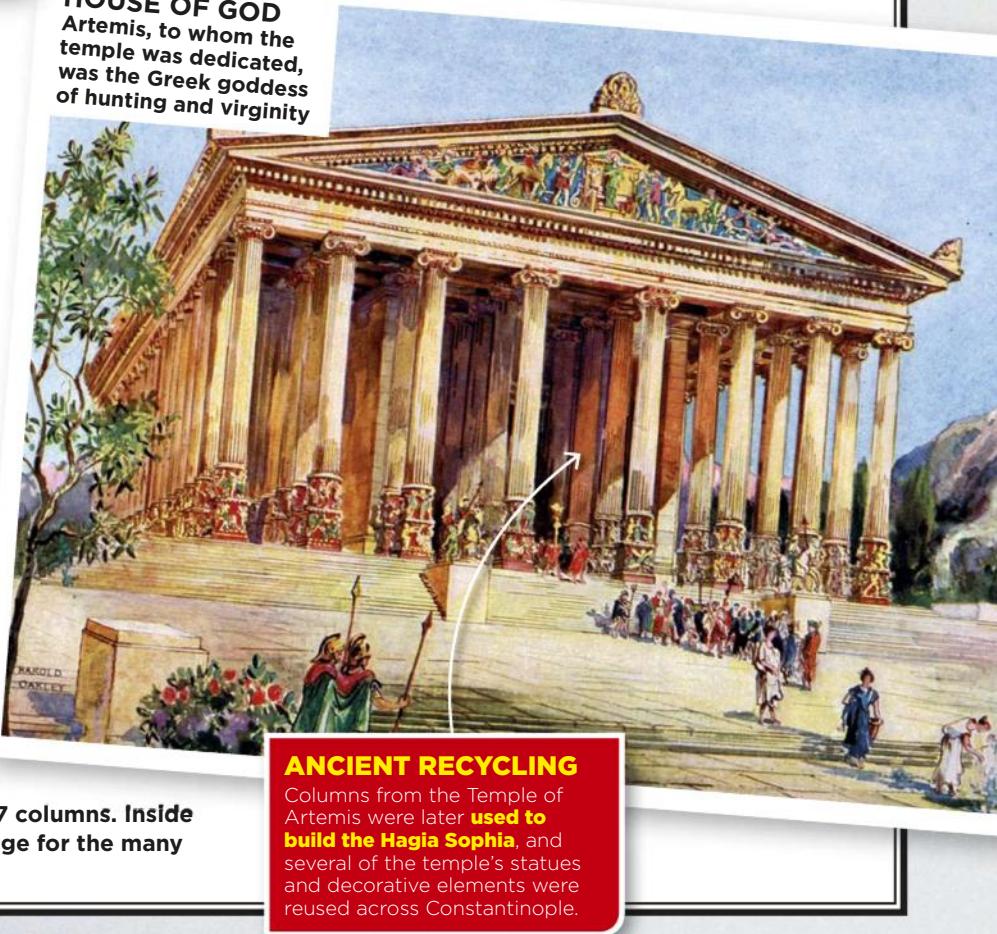
You may have an opinion on what was the greatest Wonder, but few were more certain than Antipater of Sidon. His tribute to the Temple of Artemis read: "I have set eyes on the wall of lofty Babylon on which is a road for chariots, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus, and the Hanging Gardens, and the colossus of the Sun, and the huge labour of the high pyramids, and the vast tomb of Mausolus but when I saw the house of Artemis that mounted to the clouds, those other marvels lost their brilliancy, and I said, 'Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on aught so grand!'"

That said, the temple had a difficult, violent existence, so much so that there were actually several temples, built one after the other in Ephesus, modern-day Turkey. The Wonder was repeatedly destroyed by a seventh-century-BC flood, an arsonist named Herostratus in 356 BC, who hoped to achieve fame by any means, and a raid by the East Germanic Goths in the third century. Its final destruction came in AD 401. Very little remains of the temple, save for fragments held by the British Museum.

At its most impressive – the version that inspired Antipater's account – the white marble temple ran for over 110x55m (361x180ft), with its entire length ornamented by carvings, statues and 127 columns. Inside stood a statue of the goddess Artemis, a site of homage for the many visitors to Ephesus, who left offerings at her feet.

HOUSE OF GOD

Artemis, to whom the temple was dedicated, was the Greek goddess of hunting and virginity



ANCIENT RECYCLING

Columns from the Temple of Artemis were later used to build the Hagia Sophia, and several of the temple's statues and decorative elements were reused across Constantinople.

"FRENCH ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVERED MASSIVE STONES IN THE WATER AROUND PHAROS IN 1994"

HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

WEAK AT THE KNEES

The sun god snapped at the knees following a deadly earthquake that destroyed much of the city

POSTURE-LATION

Though the Colossus is often depicted **holding a torch above his head**, there is no evidence for this. Instead, it is suggested that he had **one hand shielding his eyes**, as he is shown in reliefs.



COLOSSUS OF RHODES

Erected c282 BC, the Colossus of Rhodes was the last Wonder built, and among the first destroyed. It stood for less than 60 years, but that didn't signal the end of its status as a Wonder.

The mighty statue of the sun god Helios had been erected over 12 years by the sculptor Chares of Lindos to celebrate a military triumph in a year-long siege. Legend claims that the people of Rhodes sold the tools left by their vanquished foe to help pay for the Colossus, melted down abandoned weapons for its bronze and iron edifice, and used a siege tower as scaffolding.

Overlooking the harbour, Helios stood at 70 cubits - some 32 metres (105 feet) - high, possibly holding a torch or a spear. Some depictions show him straddling the harbour entrance, allowing ships to sail through his legs, but this would have been impossible with the casting techniques of the time.

Regardless, the Colossus still wasn't strong enough to withstand an earthquake in 226 BC, and the statue came crashing to the ground in pieces. Rhodians declined Ptolemy's offer to have it rebuilt, having been told by an oracle that they had offended Helios.

So the giant, broken sections lay on the ground, where they stayed for over 800 years still attracting visitors. The historian Pliny the Elder wrote: "Even as it lies, it excites our wonder and admiration. Few people can clasp the thumb in their arms, and its fingers are larger than most statues." When enemy forces finally sold the Colossus for scrap in the seventh century, it took 900 camel loads to shift all the pieces.

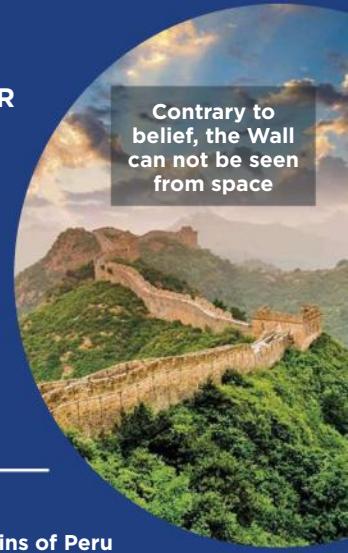
OTHER WONDERS OF THE WORLD

There are plenty of incredible feats of art and engineering still standing

CHRIST REDEEMER

The iconic 30-metre statue of Jesus Christ is ideally placed to overlook Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Contrary to belief, the Wall can not be seen from space



GREAT WALL OF CHINA

Over millennia, some 13,000 miles of fortifications were built to keep China safe from invaders.

MACHU PICCHU

High up in the mountains of Peru sits the ruins of an Inca city, only discovered in 1911.

PETRA

A beautiful ancient city in Jordan, hidden in the gorges and carved out of the red rock of the cliff faces.

COLOSSEUM

Rome's immense stadium allowed tens of thousands to attend the gladiatorial games.

CHICHEN ITZA

The Mayan city in Mexico is dominated by the 30-metre-high step pyramid of El Castillo.

TAJ MAHAL

Stunning architecture and intricate art make this mausoleum one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

EIFFEL TOWER

The Parisian landmark attracts millions of visitors a year, many of whom ascend the 1,710 stairs to the top.

SAGRADA FAMILIA

It may not be finished, but Antoni Gaudí's Gothic masterpiece is one of the world's most unique cathedrals.

SPRING TEMPLE BUDDHA

At 153 metres, the world's tallest statue is the same height as a 35-storey building.



HAGIA SOPHIA

Istanbul's sixth-century cathedral is the most important, and distinctive, structure of the Byzantine period.

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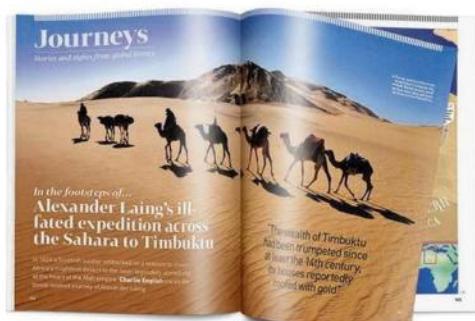
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In search of the fabled African city of Timbuktu

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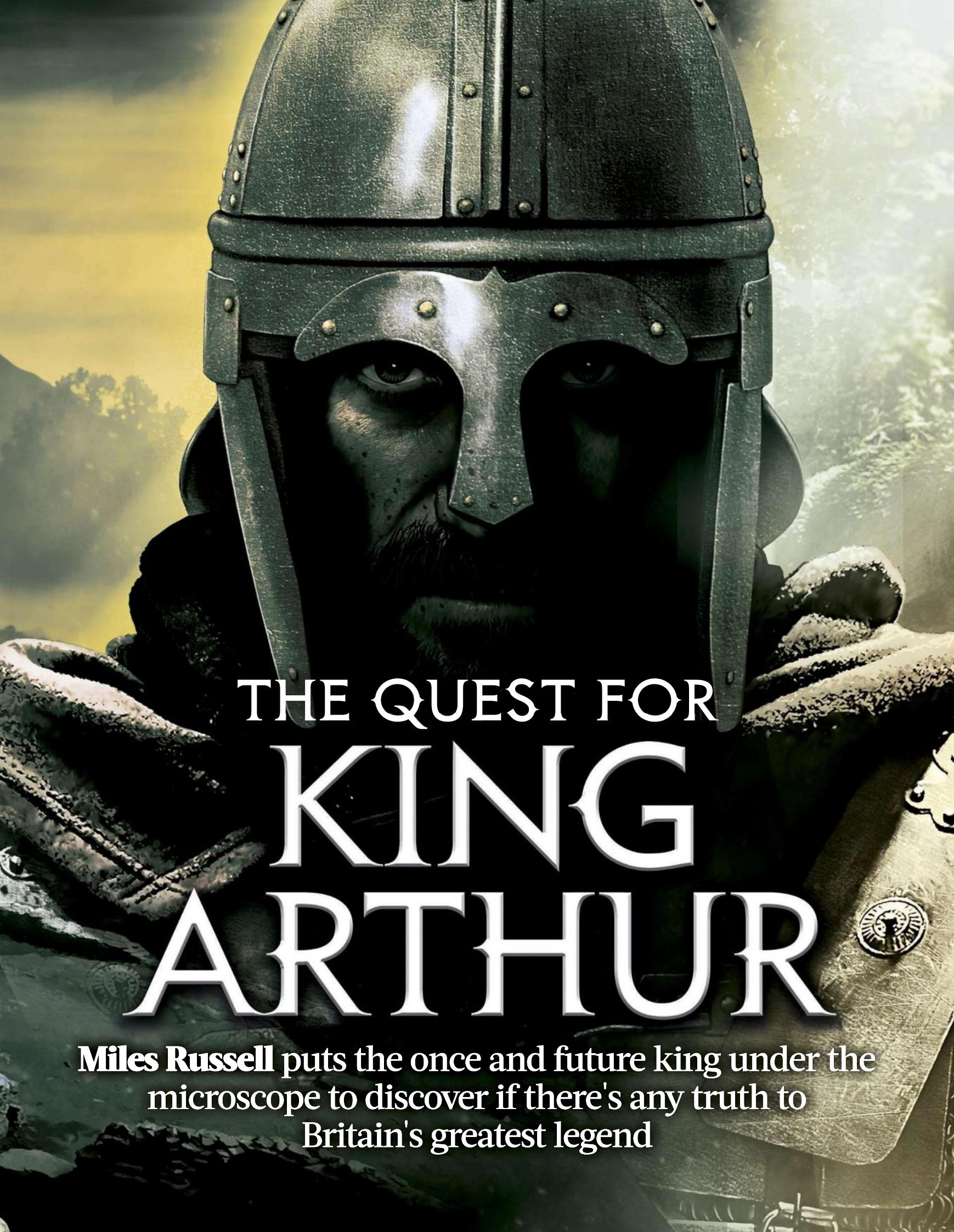
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Who was the post-Roman
warlord who inspired the
legend of King Arthur?

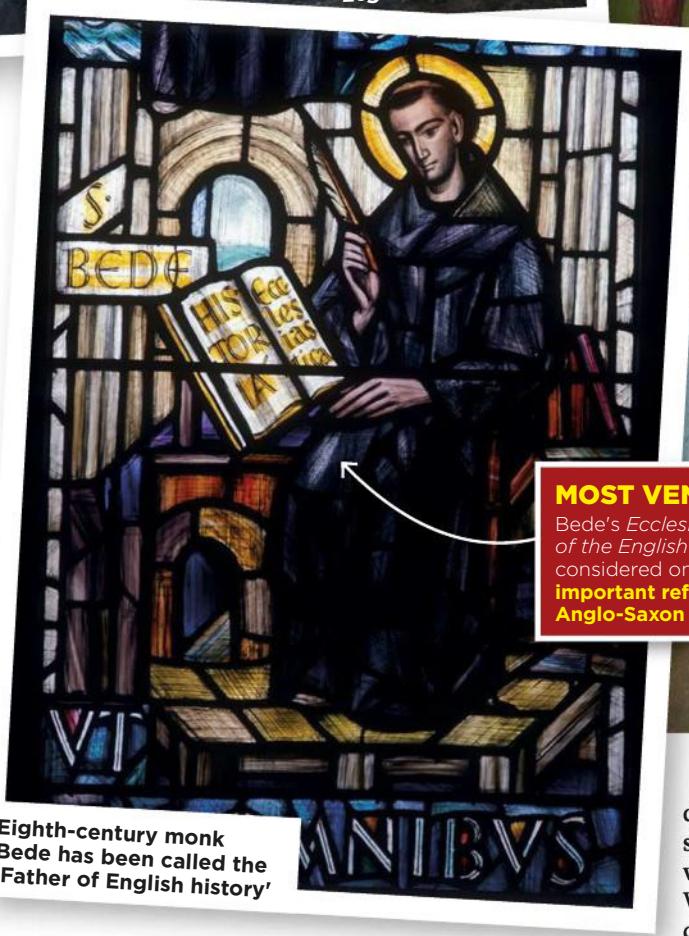


THE QUEST FOR KING ARTHUR

Miles Russell puts the once and future king under the microscope to discover if there's any truth to Britain's greatest legend



Charles Hunnam as Arthur in the 2017 film, *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*



Eighth-century monk
Bede has been called the
'Father of English history'



MOST VENERABLE
Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* is considered one of the **most important references on Anglo-Saxon history**.

"He crosses from history to the world of folklore, with no clear indicator of where fact ends and fiction begins"

There are few characters from history or legend so widely celebrated as King Arthur, a medieval celebrity famous the world over. He is the archetypal doomed hero – a brave and chivalric warrior who fought against the forces of evil, establishing a great kingdom and presiding over a golden age, betrayed by those he held most dear. His story has been told, retold and elaborated upon for hundreds of years. The recent Hollywood epic, *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* reimagines the tale for a new generation and reboots the franchise yet again. But who was Arthur? Was there a real warlord on whose life the legend is based, or is he a mere fantasy?

As a literary character, Arthur is well-defined. Elements of his story – from the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail – are embedded in western culture. He crosses effortlessly from history to the worlds of art, folklore and literature, often with no clear indicator of where fact ends and fiction begins. As a historical character, however, Arthur causes a significant headache, for there are no contemporary sources that undeniably prove his existence. Many academics today believe that there was a prototype for Arthur – a successful warlord, perhaps, from the immediate post-Roman period – but few can really agree on who that was.

For most, the period that followed the collapse of Roman rule in Britain is best described as 'the Dark Ages', hidden by a fog of myth and chronological uncertainty. This is a time fuelled by epic matter, the characters appearing in legend having been so extensively

distorted that it is often difficult to see how particular tales began or to whom they originally related. Macsen Wledig, for example, an important character in the early Welsh epic the *Mabinogion*, ultimately bears little resemblance to the genuine Magnus Maximus of fourth-century Roman history, while the fifth-century Romano-British general Ambrosius Aurelianus appears in folklore gathering monoliths from Ireland and re-erecting them on Salisbury Plain with the aid of magic.

Perhaps the biggest problem for anyone attempting to make sense of the fifth and sixth centuries is the lack of useful contemporary sources. There are the religious writings of Gildas and Bede, as well as the more fantastical *Historia Brittonum* (History of the Britons) or



the *Annales Cambriae* (the Annals of Wales), later collections of dates, lists and topographical information, but overall documentary sources are sparse.

MISGUIDED PATRIOT

Building on this limited set of resources is the *Historia Regum Britanniae* (History of the Kings of Britain), an epic work compiled by Geoffrey of Monmouth in around 1136. This claims to chronicle all the rulers of Britain from earliest times until the seventh century AD. As a later text, containing much that is clearly fictional (including dragons, giants and sorcery), the book has often been ignored or derided. As a piece of literature, however, it is arguably one of the most important works in the European tradition, laying the ground

for stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

The verdict of history upon Geoffrey of Monmouth has been harsh – at times treated a fantasist, a spinner of tall stories, a serial hoaxter or a thoroughly misguided patriot. Today, none of the material contained within his *Historia Regum Britanniae* is ever seriously considered as remotely factual and is usually dismissed out of hand. There is, it is thought, no truth in Geoffrey's accounts; there is no 'lost voice' helping us understand the political, economic and social life before Rome. A new study of the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, however, has started to turn this perception around.

Geoffrey of Monmouth claimed that the inspiration for his magnum opus was

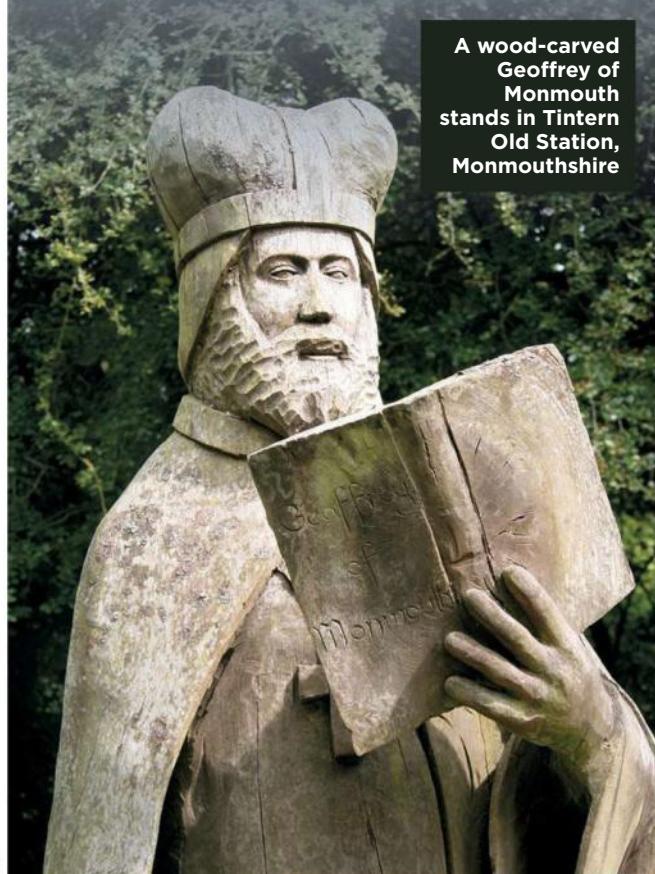
HISTORIAN OR FANTASIST? Geoffrey of Monmouth

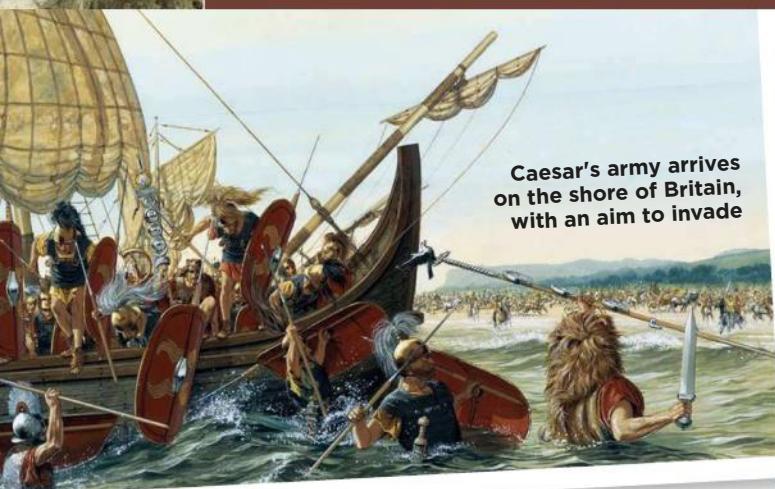
We know next to nothing about Geoffrey, whose association with Monmouth, at the borderlands between Wales and England, is unclear. He was certainly familiar with the geography of Cornwall, Brittany and South Wales, the Roman fortress town of Caerleon, near Monmouth, appearing many times in his text, and he may have been part Welsh or at least part Breton, working and researching in an England that was very much under the Norman yoke.

Geoffrey spent most of his working life in Oxford, his name appearing on a number of charters there, as *Galfridus Monemutensis* (Geoffrey of Monmouth) between 1129 and 1151, where he is referred to as magister or teacher. He may have been a canon of the secular college of St George in Oxford.

He apparently began writing the *Historia Regum Britanniae* at the request of Walter, archdeacon of Oxford, who presented him with 'an ancient book written in the British tongue' for him to translate into Latin. The book, as it developed, provided the British with their own heroic mythology: a national epic to rival any produced by the Saxons or Normans, propelling Arthur and many other distant kings, to the world stage.

In 1151, Geoffrey became Bishop Elect of St Asaph in North Wales and was ordained at Westminster the following year. There is no evidence that he took up the see, apparently dying four years later in 1155.





"This was no mere work of patriotic make-believe"

an ancient book "in the British tongue". The fact that he never named his source has led people to the conclusion that he simply made it all up. Having examined the *Historia* in detail, however, it's clear that this was no mere work of patriotic make-believe. On the contrary, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the *Historia Regum Britanniae* was compiled from a variety of genuine sources, some of which, at least, date back to the first century BC.

SAME OLD STORY

Key to unlocking the secrets of Geoffrey's text lies in the story he tells of Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain, the first historical event in the book that can be independently verified from other sources. Caesar attacked Britain on two separate occasions, in 55 and 54 BC, the Roman general recording his exploits in a series of campaign diaries known today as the *Gallic Wars*. When describing the second invasion, Caesar establishes three protagonists: himself (the hero, naturally); a British king called Cassivellaunus (the villain); and a young British aristocrat called Mandubracius (a Roman ally). Geoffrey of Monmouth, however, describes the events of 54 BC twice, setting them down in the *Historia* as if they were two separate military operations. In the first, the aggressor, Caesar, is defeated by the heroic warrior-king Cassibellaunus at the "Battle of Dorobellum" and driven back into the sea. In the second, Cassibellaunus, now the bad guy, is interrupted from waging an unprovoked war on his rival Androgeus (Mandubracius) by the arrival of Caesar. At the Battle of Durobernia, Caesar prevails, thanks to the timely intervention of Androgeus on the Roman side. Despite having won, Caesar, in fear of Androgeus, departs from Britain's shores.

It is clear that in describing this campaign, Geoffrey was using two accounts of the same event but, rather critically, accounts written from two very different perspectives. The first, establishing Cassibellaunus

THE MAN BEHIND THE LEGEND

The real King Arthur

New research suggests that Arthur was actually a composite of five Dark Age characters – so who really made up the legendary king?

AMBROSIUS AURELIANUS

► The character of King Arthur, the heroic leader, gradually evolved in oral tradition as people celebrated and commemorated the very real fifth-century warlord Ambrosius Aurelianus. Aurelianus was "a gentleman", the sixth-century writer Gildas assures us, being "one of the last of the Romans" whose parents had undoubtedly "worn the purple". Wearing the purple was a euphemism for being emperor, the clothing dye being so expensive that it was reserved for the leader of state.

The fact that Gildas describes Aurelianus's parents in this way suggests that they possessed significant authority, probably as fourth-century usurpers or rebel emperors holding power in Britain. Gildas notes that Aurelianus was a successful general, defeating Saxon armies on many occasions, the greatest victory being the siege of Mount Badon. Unfortunately, we don't know who was besieging whom, nor indeed where 'Mount Badon' was (although Geoffrey of Monmouth later claims it was at Bath), but it was clearly a major engagement and was much celebrated, later becoming a key moment in Arthur's career.

By the ninth century, it is clear that the historical Aurelianus and the legendary Arthur were already starting to take different paths. In the *Historia Brittonum* (*History of the Britons*) compiled by Nennius, 'Arthur' has acquired a number of battles, chief among which was Aurelianus's victory at Mount Badon. Nennius also tells us that Aurelianus was fighting British enemies, worst of which was King Guorthigirnus (Vortigern), the man who first invited the Saxons to Britain. Geoffrey of Monmouth (who calls his hero Aurelius Ambrosius), says that Vortigern tried to hide in "the castle of Genorius" but was besieged there, dying as his fortress burnt around him. Having defeated the tyrant, Ambrosius Aurelianus established himself as master of Britain, rebuilding London in the process. In a grand ceremony, staged within Stonehenge, Aurelianus was crowned king.

Interestingly, archaeological evidence suggests that the internal bluestone setting at Stonehenge was modified in the post-Roman period. By the time Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote down the coronation story, it was the great sarsens of Stonehenge that were transported to Salisbury Plain from Ireland (with help from the wizard Merlin).

BROTHERS IN ARMS

Arvirargus and Claudio are depicted embracing in this 12th-century illuminated manuscript by the poet Wace, canon of Bayeux.

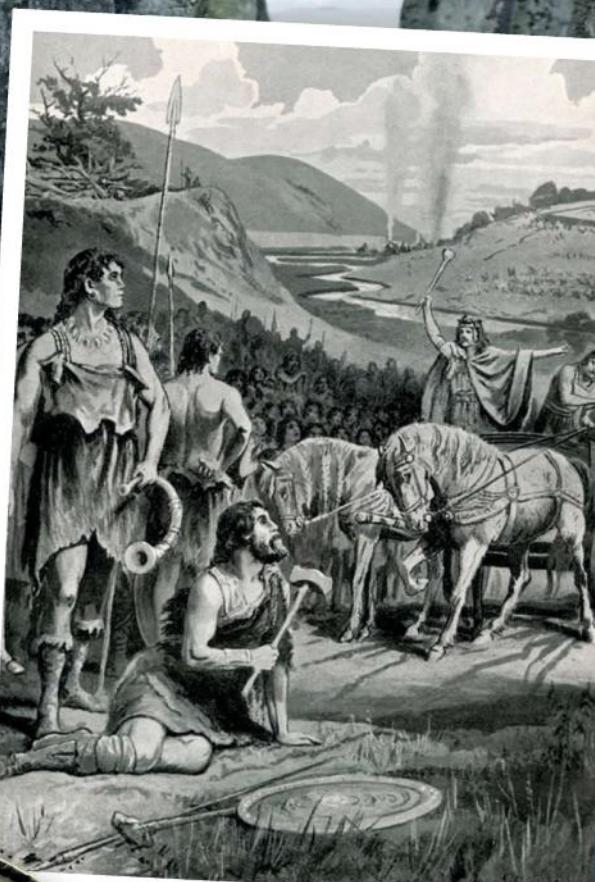
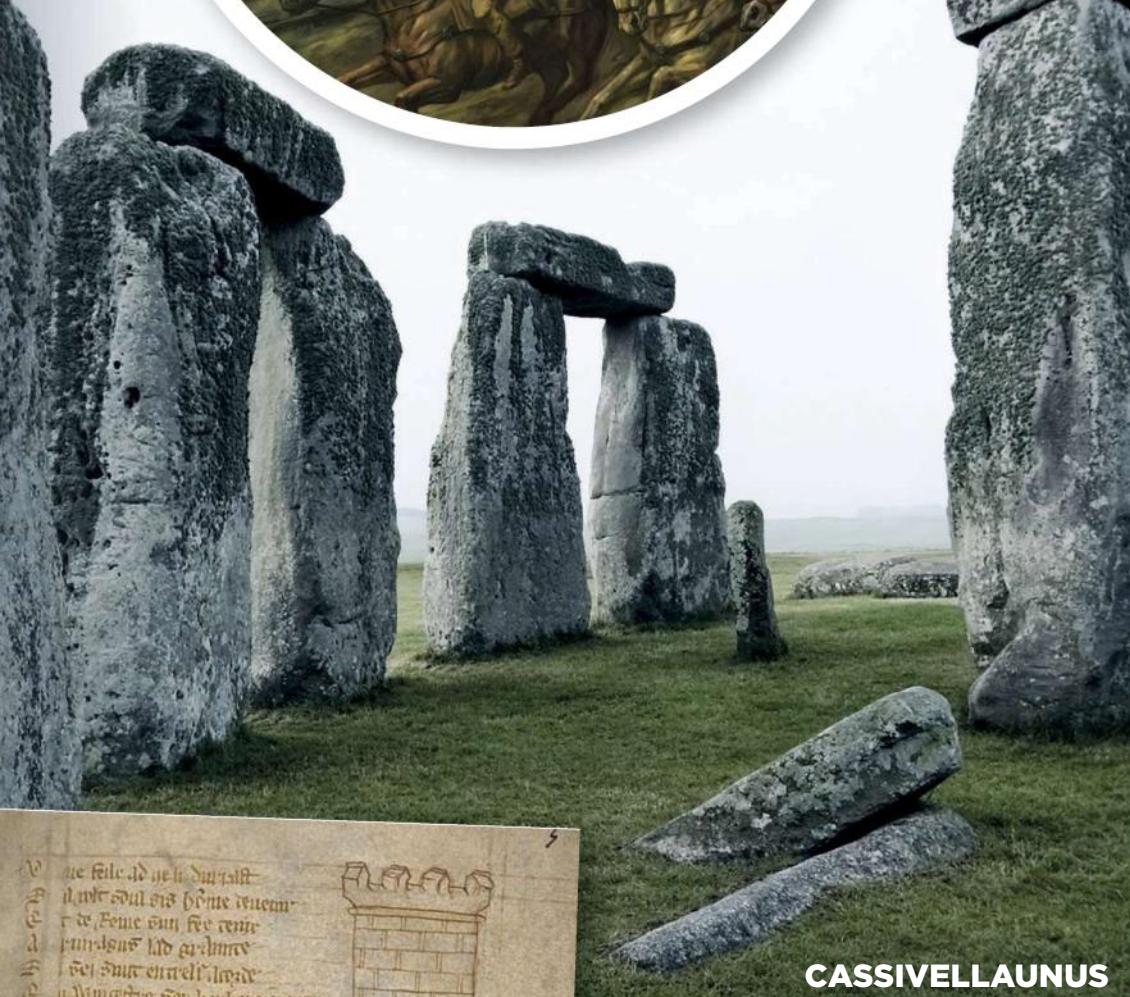
CONSTANTINE

► Constantine (later 'the Great') was proclaimed emperor by his men at York in AD 306. Taking troops from Britain and Gaul, he marched on Rome, killing the western emperor Maxentius at the Milvian Bridge in AD 312, before defeating the eastern emperor Licinius 12 years later. Much of his campaign, from York to Rome, is later mirrored in that of Arthur.





LEFT: Ambrosius Aurelianus charges into battle BELOW: Aurelianus was said to have been crowned at Stonehenge



CASSIVELLAUNUS

► A warrior king from the first century BC, Cassivellaunus refused to pay tribute to Rome, only to see his kingdom attacked. On the verge of defeating the Roman army, Cassivellaunus was betrayed by his treacherous nephew, Mandubracius. Later, in the *Historia*, we hear that Arthur, refusing to pay tribute to Rome, sees his kingdom attacked. On the verge of defeating the Roman army, he is betrayed by his treacherous nephew Mordred.

ARVIRARGUS

► Arvirargus, or Togodumnus, was a British king from the first century AD who, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, joined forces with the Roman emperor Claudius to subjugate the Orkneys. Returning home, Arvirargus married the Roman lady Gewissa, a 'great beauty'. In the *Historia*, Arthur joined forces with Huel to subjugate Ireland before returning home to marry Ganhuma, a 'great beauty'



MAGNUS MAXIMUS

► In AD 383, Magnus Maximus, a Roman officer in Britain, was illegally proclaimed emperor. Determined to capture Rome, Maximus took an army to Gaul where he fought and killed the emperor Gratian. Later, in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, Arthur, determined to capture Rome, takes an army to Gaul where he fights and kills the emperor Lucius Hiberius.

FACT**TINTAGEL**

Cited as the place of Arthur's conception, Tintagel was indeed a significant fortress and port throughout the fifth and sixth centuries AD.

MORDRED

▼ The character of Mordred, the treacherous nephew, is based upon the first-century-BC king Mandubracius of the Trinovantes (in Essex), a prince who betrayed his uncle to Julius Caesar.

FACT**STILL STANDING**

The ruins of Tintagel Castle can be found on the coast of Cornwall, one of the **most-visited historic sites** in Britain.

**FICTION****THE HOLY GRAIL**

► Added in the late 12th century, the quest for the Holy Grail adds a greater sense of both chivalry and religious destiny to the story of Arthur.

Fact or fiction?

The truth behind the people, places and objects in the Arthur story

◀ (Cassivellaunus) as the hero, was generated by the supporters of the British king; the second, which portrays the king as a savage tyrant and Androgeus (Mandubracius) as a brave resistance leader, is undoubtedly derived from the followers of Cassivellaunus's rival. This revelation, in turn, helps to explain Geoffrey of Monmouth's comment, in the foreword to the *Historia*, that in his day the lives of the early British kings were "celebrated by many people by heart, as if they had been written". As one might expect for a pre-Roman Celtic society, tales of the great and good survived, well into the

Early Middle Ages, not because they had been transcribed but because they had been transmitted from generation to generation by word of mouth.

HIJACKING HISTORY

Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote for a purpose, hoping to establish both the primacy and antiquity of the British kings, demonstrating that their history was greater (and far more interesting) than those of either the Saxons or Normans. To do this, he brought together a disparate mass of source material, including folklore, chronicles, king-lists, dynastic tables, oral tales and

DID YOU KNOW?

As well as having a sword called Caliburn, Arthur, as he appears in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, also had a shield called Pridwen and a spear called Ron.

bardic praise poems. Information, not least of all concerning personal names, had become irrevocably garbled by the time Geoffrey of Monmouth encountered it, original meaning and context having been lost. To create a grand, uninterrupted narrative, Geoffrey exercised significant editorial control, massaging information, filling gaps and smoothing out inconsistencies. In doing so, he hijacked certain characters and stories from different time-periods and rearranged them in such a way that they created a continuous line of monarchs

FICTION

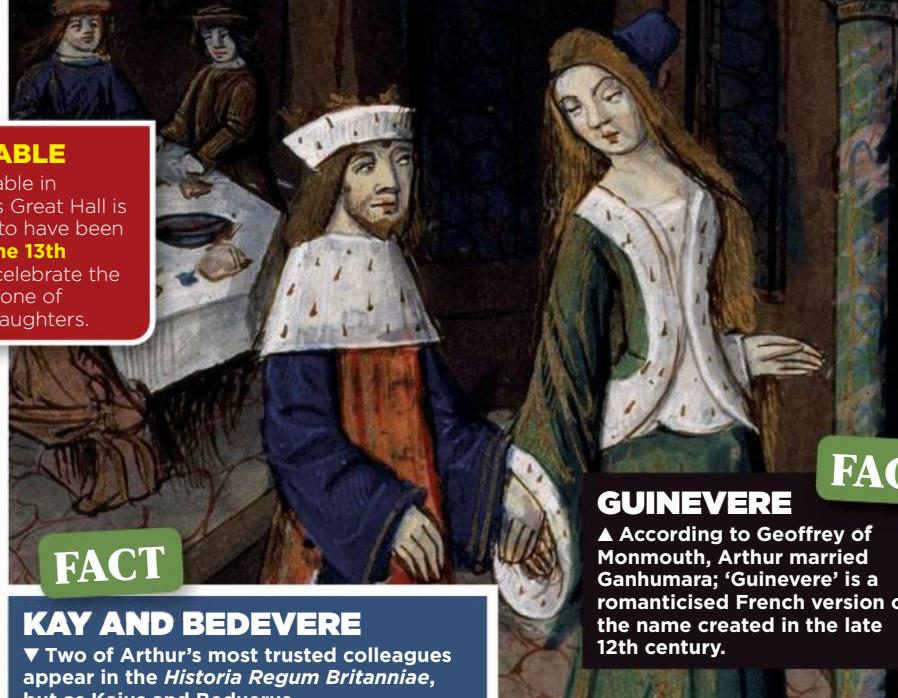
THE ROUND TABLE

▼ Added to the story of Arthur in the 12th and 13th centuries, the concept of the 'brotherhood of knights' appealed to the medieval concept of chivalry.



TABLE FABLE

The round table in Winchester's Great Hall is now known to have been **created in the 13th century**, to celebrate the betrothal of one of Edward I's daughters.



FACT

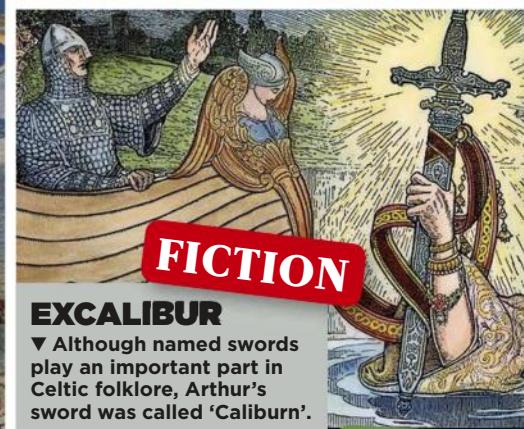
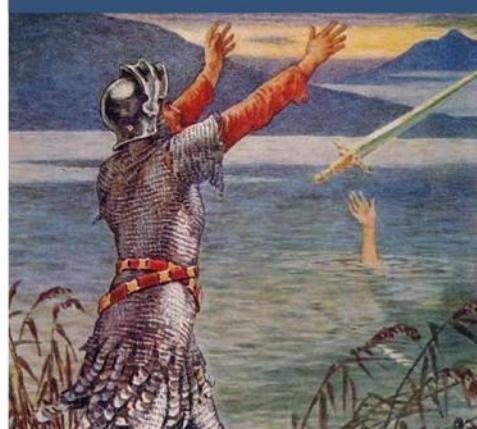
GUINEVERE

▲ According to Geoffrey of Monmouth, Arthur married Ganhuma; 'Guinevere' is a romanticised French version of the name created in the late 12th century.

FACT

KAY AND BEDEVERE

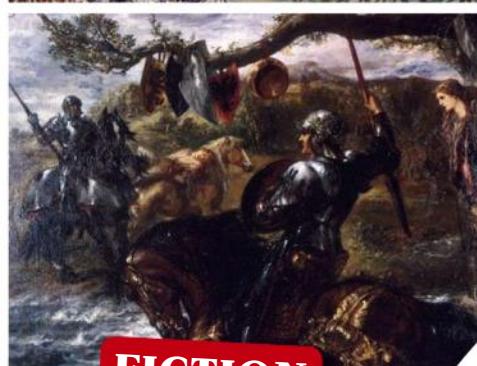
▼ Two of Arthur's most trusted colleagues appear in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, but as Kaius and Beduerus.



FICTION

EXCALIBUR

▼ Although named swords play an important part in Celtic folklore, Arthur's sword was called 'Caliburn'.



FACT

MERLIN FACT

▼ In the earliest accounts, Merlin and Arthur never meet, the wizard being the chief advisor to Arthur's father Uther and his uncle, Ambrosius Aurelianus.

FICTION

THE SWORD IN THE STONE

▲ There is no mention of a sword in the stone prophecy for Arthur in the earliest accounts of his life; Arthur simply inherits the kingdom from his father, Uther.

stretching from deep time to the seventh century AD.

Much of the information deployed in the *Historia* came from two discrete sources. First, we have the orally transmitted, heroic tales of the Catuvellauni and Trinovantes, two tribes based in central south-eastern Britain at the very end of the Iron Age. And secondly, there are the king-lists of important post-Roman dynasties ruling territories in western Britain (primarily

Wales). Stretching this source material out, chopping, changing and re-editing it in the process, Geoffrey added additional information culled from later histories, including those of Gildas and Bede. At its core, then, the *Historia Regum Britanniae* is the tale of two tribes at a critical moment in history: the period of first contact with Rome. What Geoffrey did, then, was to expand the geography of the primary source material, away from central south-eastern England, in >



BEYOND THE GRAIL

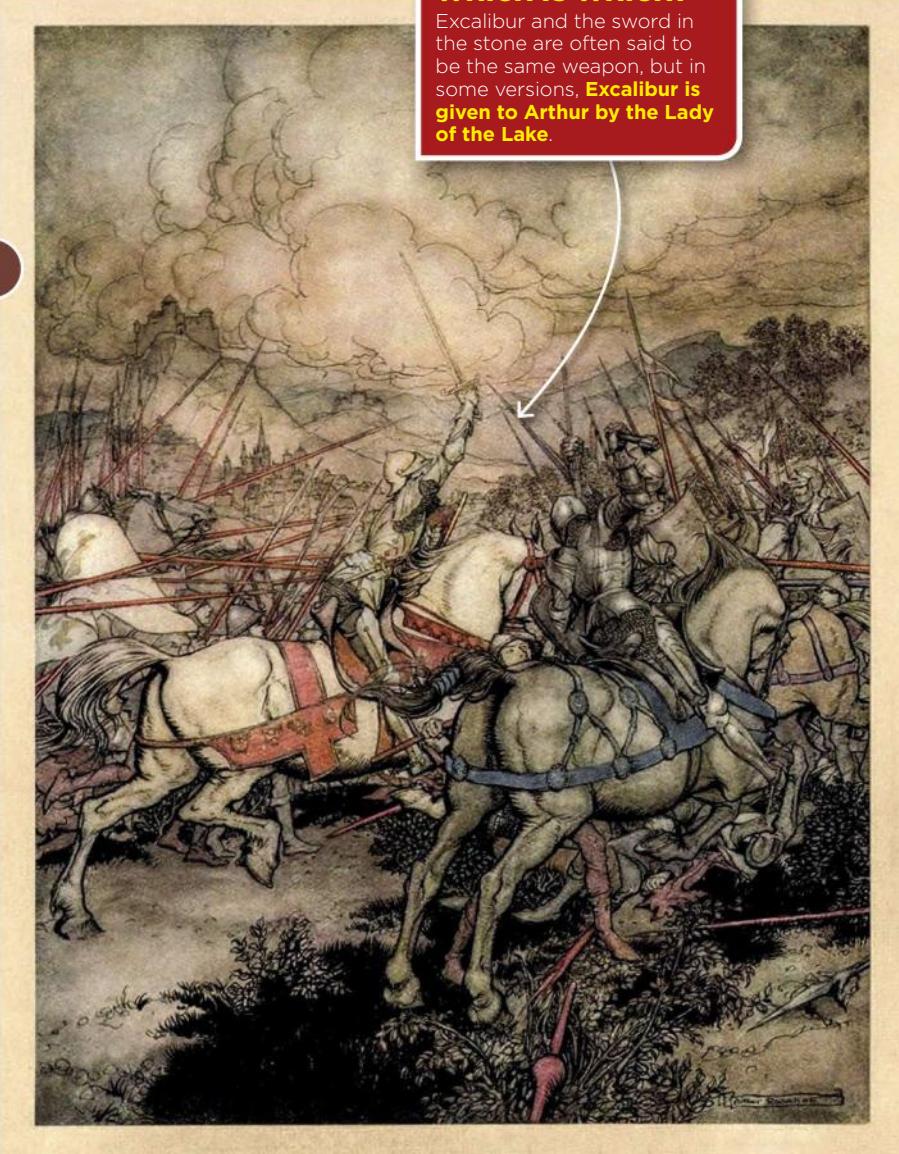
The making of a legend

Within a generation of Geoffrey of Monmouth's book, stories of King Arthur were appearing across Europe. The late-12th-century French poet, Chrétien de Troyes, introduced the concept of courtly love to the tale, adding Lancelot and his adulterous affair with Queen Guinevere, as well as 'the Quest', with Perceval seeking the Holy Grail. Arthur the chivalric king greatly influenced the Norman monarchy, Edward I establishing tournaments and, around 1290, commissioning a 'round table', which can still be seen in Winchester today, and Edward III creating the Order of the Garter in 1348. Henry Tudor also hijacked the story of Arthur in order to legitimise his rather shaky claim to the throne (going as far as naming his first-born son Arthur).

The development of Arthur the medieval king reached its climax in the late 15th century, with Thomas Malory's epic *Morte d'Arthur* (*The Death of Arthur*), the first account of the legend to appear in English and one of the first books, in 1485, to be printed. The 'Arthurian cycle' became popular again in the early 19th century, during the Gothic romantic revival, with William Wordsworth and Alfred Lord Tennyson, who in turn inspired the 'Pre-Raphaelite' movement, later writers (especially T H White and T S Eliot) and early 20th-century film makers. Over the years, Arthur has been rewritten and reshaped, becoming a hero to both rich and poor, the political elite and the revolutionary alike. His popularity shows no sign of fading away.



2



1

WHICH IS WHICH?

Excalibur and the sword in the stone are often said to be the same weapon, but in some versions, **Excalibur is given to Arthur by the Lady of the Lake**.



3

order to provide a greater sweep of the British Isles.

Once you accept that Geoffrey's *Historia* does not represent a single epic but a mass of unrelated stories woven together to form a grand narrative, individual tales can be identified, removed and returned to their correct time-period. The importance of this is that, as a history recorded by the Britons themselves, and not filtered through the eyes of a conquering power, such information completely reconfigures our understanding of the distant past, producing new ways of seeing how the Britons dealt with the arrival of Rome, and what happened following the collapse of Roman authority in the fifth century AD. It is clear that if we ignore Geoffrey of Monmouth, we are discarding a large dataset, turning our back on information that can significantly help us interpret the past.

UNEARTHING THE TRUTH

The account compiled in the *Historia Regum Britanniae* needs to be considered objectively if the origins and nature of Britain's most famous monarch, King Arthur, is to be understood. The curious irony about King Arthur is that, while everyone agrees that his rise to fame came thanks to Geoffrey of Monmouth, the search for a real, 'historical' Arthur means that few people look in detail, or indeed at all, at the *Historia* for clues to his context and identity. If one is trying to establish the existence of the true Arthur as a post-Roman warlord, then, it is

usually reasoned, the *Historia* is too implausible and just too weird to be taken seriously. The anachronistic detail, coupled with the unreal and obviously fantastical elements, all conspire to make Geoffrey's book – the very thing that catapulted Arthur to international celebrity-status – unreliable. Hence when we look at the hundreds of articles and books generated every year that claim to have unearthed new and exciting clues as to the existence of King Arthur, Geoffrey of Monmouth is not consulted. More often, he is rejected out of hand in favour of 'more reliable' sources. If we wish to resolve who King Arthur was, however, we cannot afford to be so picky.

Key elements of the Arthur story, such as his parentage, conception, association with Merlin, marriage to Guinevere, establishment of a great kingdom, betrayal and final disappearance, all take form in the *Historia Regum Britanniae*. Major plot details, however, are notably



In the earliest accounts, Arthur had a sister, Anna, who became queen of Brittany. She is not mentioned in later versions of the story.



A 14th-century illumination showing King Arthur defeating a Saxon army

absent, there being no Lancelot, Camelot, Holy Grail, sword-in-the-stone or chivalric order of the round table. These all represent later 'add-ons', significantly expanding the original narrative, reordering key events and making the story relevant for each subsequent age. This process, of course, continues to the present day. If we want to find the truth behind the story of the 'Once and Future King', however, it is important to understand exactly what Geoffrey of Monmouth said, cutting away all later elaboration.

In the *Historia*, Arthur is conceived at Tintagel, born from the union of Uther Pendragon and Ygerna, Duchess of Cornwall, who is deceived into thinking Uther is her husband Gorlois. With Gorlois dead, Uther marries Ygerna and they have a second child, Anna. Ascending the throne, aged 15, Arthur

"He is rejected out of hand in favour of 'reliable' sources"

TOP FIVE ADAPTATIONS

The Arthurian legend, as seen on screen



KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE (1953)

A glorious Technicolor version was released in 1953, with a glittering Hollywood cast. Starring Robert Taylor, Ava Gardner and Stanley Baker, it was shot on location at Tintagel, the supposed place of Arthur's conception.



MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975)

Surely the funniest Arthurian adaptation, it's seen as a modern classic. Featuring memorable scenes such as, "it's just a flesh wound", the Knights who say "Ni!" and murderous rabbits, it's a real all-time favourite.



EXCALIBUR (1981)

A big 1980s blockbuster such as this one can hardly fail to please audiences, especially if it has a heavy amount of dazzling visuals. Based on the 15th-century work of Thomas Malory, some say it helped launch the careers of a young Helen Mirren and Liam Neeson.



KING ARTHUR (2004)

Disney's live-action movie about Arthur, Guinevere and Lancelot was marketed on a basis of better historical accuracy, but was more or less anything but. Arthur is a Roman military officer, and Guinevere is the stubborn, *Braveheart*-styled daughter of Merlin.



MERLIN (2008)

This BBC reworking of the legend is about as fantastical as it gets. Featuring talking dragons and embittered family members with magic powers, Merlin serves as Arthur's adviser and friend, but must keep his sorcery skills under wraps if he is to escape harsh punishment.

KING ARTHUR

NUMBERS GAME



15

The age at which, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth, Arthur became king



1136

The year Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae* was completed



400,160

The number of troops deployed against Arthur by the Roman emperor, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth



470

The number of men killed by Arthur alone at the Battle of Mount Badon, according to Geoffrey of Monmouth



1190

Year of the first negative review of the *Historia Regum Britanniae* by William of Newburgh, who said it stemmed from Geoffrey's "inordinate love of lying"



12

The number of battle victories credited to Arthur in the 9th-century *Historia Brittonum*

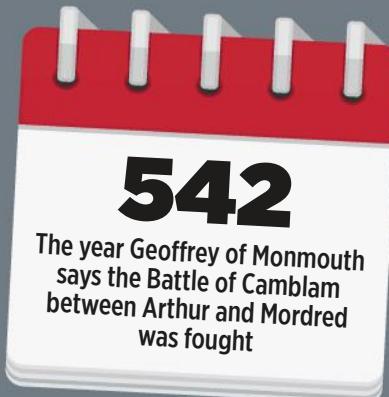


960

The number of men killed by Arthur in the earliest account of the Battle of Mount Badon, appearing in the *Historia Brittonum*

183,300

The number of men that Geoffrey of Monmouth tells us Arthur took on his invasion of France



542

The year Geoffrey of Monmouth says the Battle of Camlann between Arthur and Mordred was fought



Arthur is said to have been killed in the Battle of Camlann, fighting his enemy Mordred

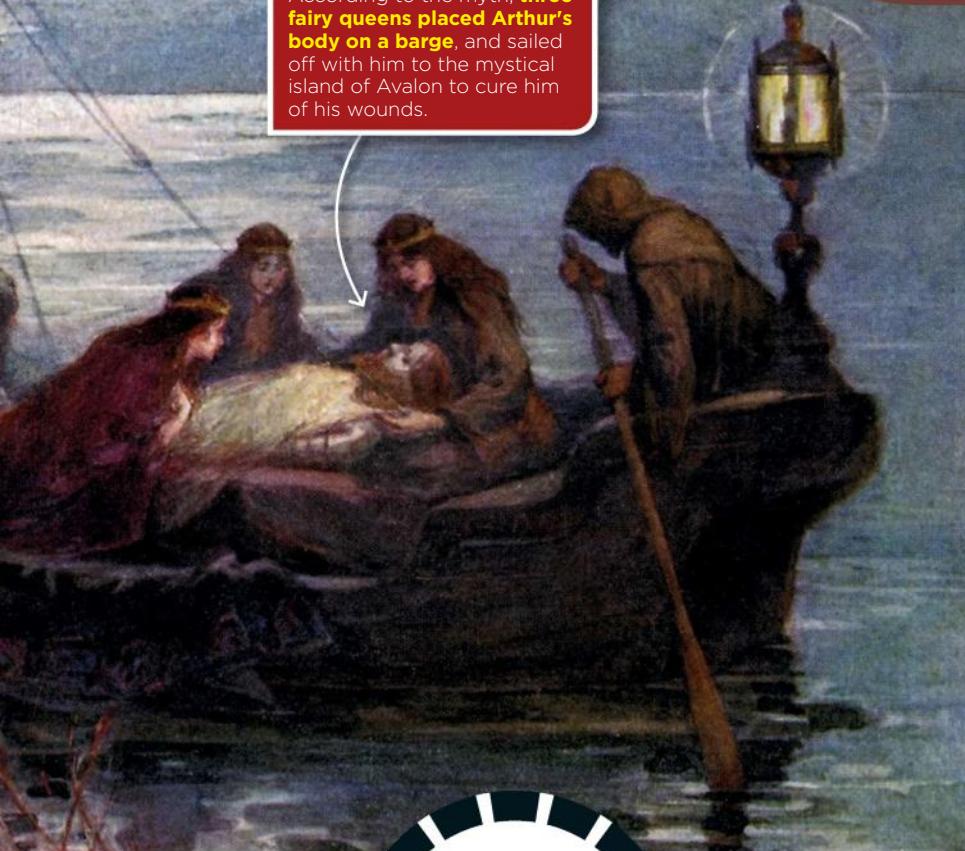
defeats the Saxons at York, rebuilds London and then, together with his nephew Hoel, king of Brittany, inflicts further defeats upon the invaders at Lincoln and Bath before crushing a combined force of Picts and Irish tribes at Loch Lomond. Marrying Ganhuma, a woman "descended from a noble Roman family", Arthur and Hoel then attack Ireland, the Orkneys, Iceland and Sweden, forcing the people to their will. Deciding on further conquest, Arthur launches an invasion of Norway and Gaul (France), laying waste to the fields, burning towns and slaughtering the native population. Later, establishing a court at Caerleon in Wales, Arthur is annoyed to find himself summoned by the Roman emperor to be tried for war crimes. Gathering an army of over 180,000 men, he sails to Gaul where he defeats and kills the emperor. Determined to capture Rome, Arthur is forced to return to Britain on hearing that his treacherous nephew Mordred has adulterously taken Ganhuma and seized the kingdom. In a bloody civil war in which many thousands die, both Mordred and Arthur fall, Arthur's body being carried off to Avalon. With most of the crowned heads of western Europe now dead, the kingdom of Britain is handed to Arthur's cousin, Constantine of Cornwall.

The Arthur described by Geoffrey of Monmouth is a curiously unlikeable



HEALING HANDS

According to the myth, **three fairy queens placed Arthur's body on a barge**, and sailed off with him to the mystical island of Avalon to cure him of his wounds.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the earliest version of Arthur's life, his kingdom extends to cover England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Iceland, Sweden and Norway.

the ultimate victory of his career, can be shown to be a conflict won by another warleader called Ambrosius Aurelianus.

Arthur, as an independent character, was never there.

It was, in fact, the exploits of Aurelianus which appear to have influenced the development of the legendary king, forming at least half of Arthur's story as recorded by Geoffrey. Other historical characters are also discernible in the great Arthurian mix and, once you detach their stories from the narrative in the *Historia*, there is nothing left for Arthur.

The reason so many academics and researchers today find echoes of King Arthur in both history and archaeology is because Arthur is himself an echo. As an independent character, he simply never existed. ☺

character, at least by the standards of today. He is arrogant, proud, aggressive and quick to anger, committing unprovoked war in Europe, in which thousands of towns are destroyed and countless men, women and children slaughtered. In Geoffrey's account, there is no room for chivalry or courtly love; this is the macho world of the warrior-elite in which only those who fight well are considered worthy of praise. Later generations lightened the blood-soaked narrative, adding magic (Merlin), chivalric heroes (Kay and Bedevere), an ultimate foe (Morgana) and a doomed love triangle (Arthur/Guinevere/Lancelot) as well as developing themes such as the quest for the Holy Grail and the establishment of Camelot.

NOTHING LEFT

A close study of the *Historia Regum Britanniae*, however, shows that King Arthur cannot have existed; at least in the form that Geoffrey of Monmouth presents him. In Geoffrey's account, Arthur is the ultimate composite character, inhabiting a world where everything that happens to him has already happened to other people. There is nothing in Arthur's story that is truly original – even the Battle of Badon Hill, which is usually treated as

GET HOOKED

READ

Miles Russell's book *Arthur and the Kings of Britain* is published by Amberley Publishing and is available to buy for £20.00.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Did a King Arthur ever exist, or is he purely a figment of the imagination?

email: editor@historyrevealed.com

EXPERT OPINION

The quest for Arthur



MILES RUSSELL

Author and senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology at Bournemouth University

Q When did you first become interested in the story of Arthur?

A I think, like a lot of children, I was fascinated by King Arthur, the 'Once and Future King', whose tale could be found in many books. Growing up, Arthur was never away from the cinema and always on TV – the sense of justice, the heroism, castles, magic, prophecy and knights in armour hitting one another with swords being a heady mix for a child! As a student, I encountered the books of Geoffrey Ashe, a historian who used archaeology and history in the search for a real Arthur, and the excavations at Cadbury and Tintagel, which were starting to fill in the gaps to our understanding of fifth- and sixth-century Britain. All of this got me thinking...

Q When did you realise that Geoffrey of Monmouth held the key?

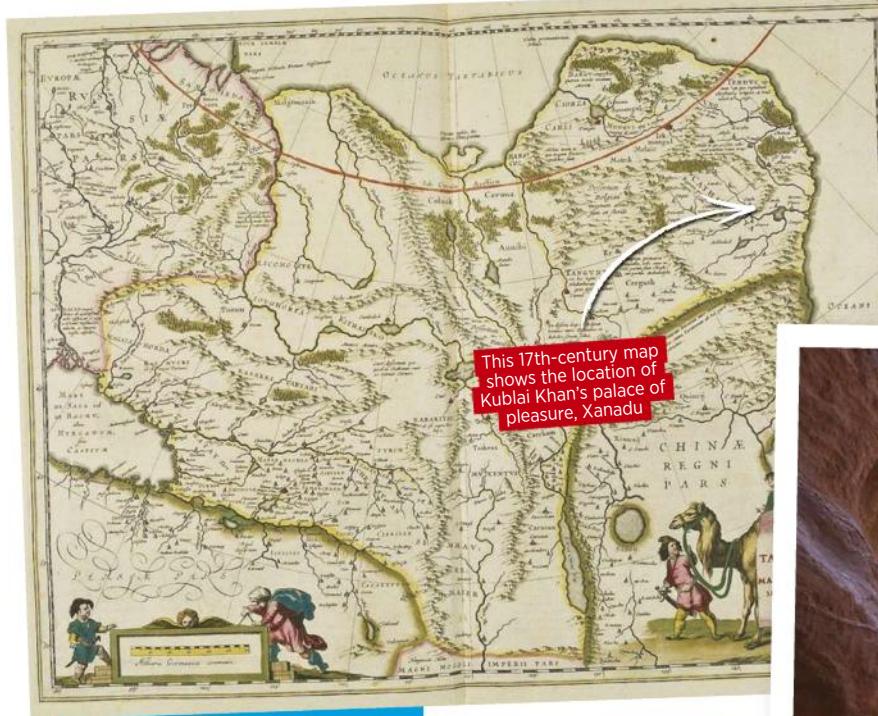
A It always struck me as odd that, although Geoffrey of Monmouth made King Arthur into a superstar, no one ever looked at his work, dismissing it as fantastical nonsense. It bothered me that no one really knew, or seemed to care, that Arthur was only a part of the *Historia Regum Britanniae* and that there was much else in there, relating to periods before Arthur, that could actually be verified by new-found archaeological evidence. I decided to examine the book objectively to see if there was a way of understanding how (and from where) the source material had derived. In doing so, the whole character and nature of King Arthur as Geoffrey of Monmouth describes him was suddenly laid bare.

Q How much more is there to uncover?

A Lots! Although certain aspects of the *Historia Regum Britanniae* have now been identified, there is much more that remains poorly understood – Geoffrey of Monmouth still has many more secrets to uncover. The legend of King Arthur continues to be popular, and quite rightly so, but we have a real character to pursue now – Ambrosius Aurelianus: the true 'Once and Future King'.

10 Lost cities

Some are swallowed by sea, some surrender to the jungle, and others simply sink beneath the soil...



XANADU

CHINA

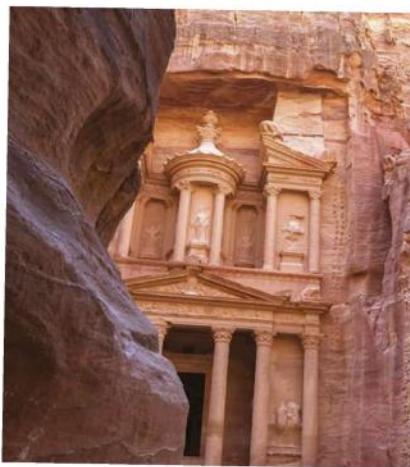
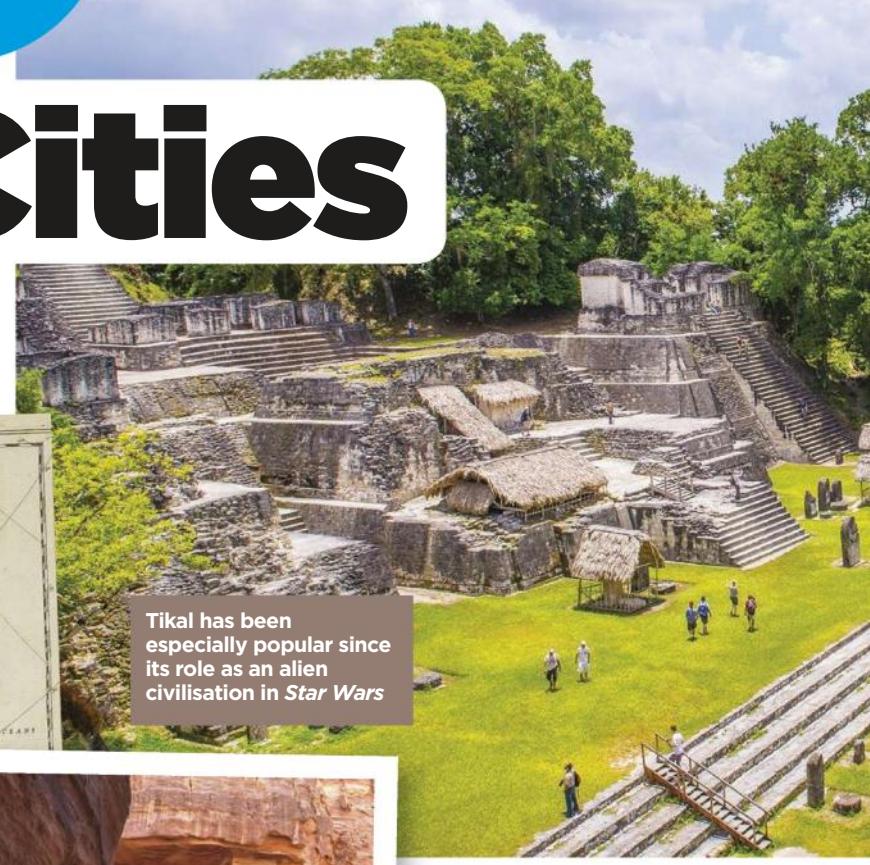
Kublai Khan's hedonistic summer capital, Xanadu, was popularised by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's iconic poem, *Kubla Khan*, in which he describes the city's dramatic destruction. It was home to almost 100,000 citizens until the invading Chinese attacked it. Visited by Marco Polo in 1275, the city rapidly deteriorated. All that remains are a few walls, but the square boundaries are easily visible from the air.



GEDI

KENYA

The medieval Swahili city of Gedi lies in deep, verdant forests, but for an unknown reason, its inhabitants abandoned the city. Feared by superstitious locals, it was first excavated by westerners in the 20th century. Technologically advanced, the Ming pottery, Venetian glassware and even flushing toilets found at the site prove that Africa was not as far behind the rest of the world as colonialists suggested.



This picture-perfect building is Al-Khazneh (The Treasury) at Petra

PETRA

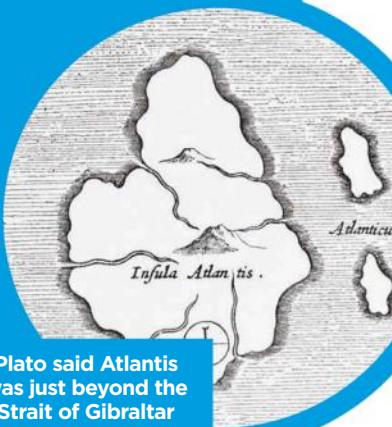
JORDAN

Fifth-century-BC Petra is a desert jewel. A rock-cut city built by the Arabs, it has beautifully intricate buildings and tombs. During the Roman era, the city declined, falling out of history after an earthquake and the Muslim conquest. The fascinating city remained unknown to Europeans until 1812, when a Swiss explorer accidentally found it on his way to sacrificing a goat.

ATLANTIS

UNKNOWN

Perhaps the most famous lost city, historians are still debating whether it was real or a figment of Plato's imagination. The kingdom of Atlantis was usually bad news, since it was a malevolent naval power, but the gods eventually tired of it and sank it under the sea. Theories on its location have ranged from Dogger Bank in the North Sea to the Greek island of Santorini.





TIKAL GUATEMALA

One of the best-known Maya cities was, until recently, covered by jungle. Construction began in the fourth century BC, and it features pyramids and evidence of traditional rituals. Tikal was abandoned in the ninth century due to agricultural failure. Though locals knew about the ruins, archaeologists did not discover them until the mid-19th century.



Caral has a total of 19 temples, in a 35-square-mile area

CARAL PERU

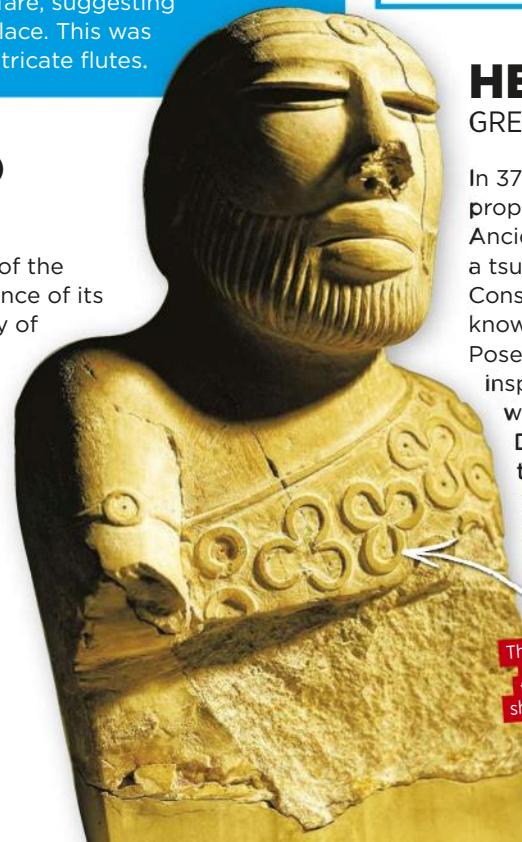
Arguably the oldest city in the Americas, Caral is at least as old as the Pyramids of Giza. It was originally mistaken for natural formations, but was discovered in 1948 lying perfectly preserved in the Peruvian desert.

However, it received surprisingly little attention, as there were no valuables. Unlike other ancient cities, Caral has no evidence of warfare, suggesting it was a peaceful and once happy place. This was supported by the discovery of 32 intricate flutes.

MOHENJO-DARO

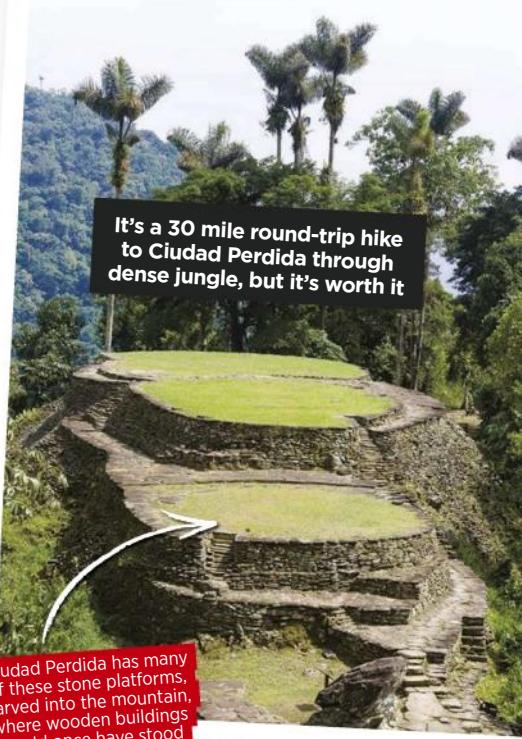
PAKISTAN

The Indus Valley civilisation was one of the world's earliest, but not a lot of evidence of its existence remains. The 1922 discovery of Mohenjo-daro, built in 2500 BC, was a huge breakthrough. Buried under the sands, the discovery of the distinctive Buddhist stupa helped Indian archaeologists unearth the site. Recently, it has been determined that most of the Bronze Age city is yet to be revealed. A gigantic bath was found at Mohenjo-daro, suggesting its inhabitants were very hygienic. In Pakistan, the site is of such national importance that it features on the 20 rupee note.



CIUDAD PERDIDA COLOMBIA

Literally meaning 'lost city', this tribal settlement is 650 years older than Machu Picchu. It was once home to thousands of people and was probably abandoned during the Spanish Conquest. Rediscovered in 1972 by local treasure looters, archaeologists became suspicious when new items started appearing on the black market, which led to the mammoth discovery. Keen explorers can now climb up the 1,200 steps to the entrance.



Ciudad Perdida has many of these stone platforms, carved into the mountain, where wooden buildings would once have stood

TIMGAD ALGERIA

This Roman city under the sands is a fascinating find. As the town was designed to be a bastion against the local Berbers, the streets follow a rigid grid pattern, not unlike modern cities such as New York. When the city was sacked by the Arabs in the eighth century, its inhabitants left, and over time the arid soil covered the ruins – protecting them from the elements. It was eventually rediscovered in 1881.



HELIKE GREECE

In 373 BC, a tragedy of epic proportions befell this Ancient Greek town when a tsunami swallowed it. Considering the town was known for its worship of Poseidon, the irony is bitter. An inspiration for Atlantis, the site was lost for thousands of years. Dora Katsonopoulou realised that it was under a silted-up lagoon, not the sea, and found Helike in 2001.



A copper coin from Helike showing the head of Poseidon

This sculpture, known as the Priest-King, was found in 1927. Studies show that he once had a colourful red cloak

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Are there any other amazing lost cities you've read about that we missed?
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

LEGEND OF THE HOLY GRAIL

EYES ON THE PRIZE

The shadow of the elusive Grail
tore its way across the Holy Land,
touching noble knights, mystical
religious orders and many more



THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY GRAIL

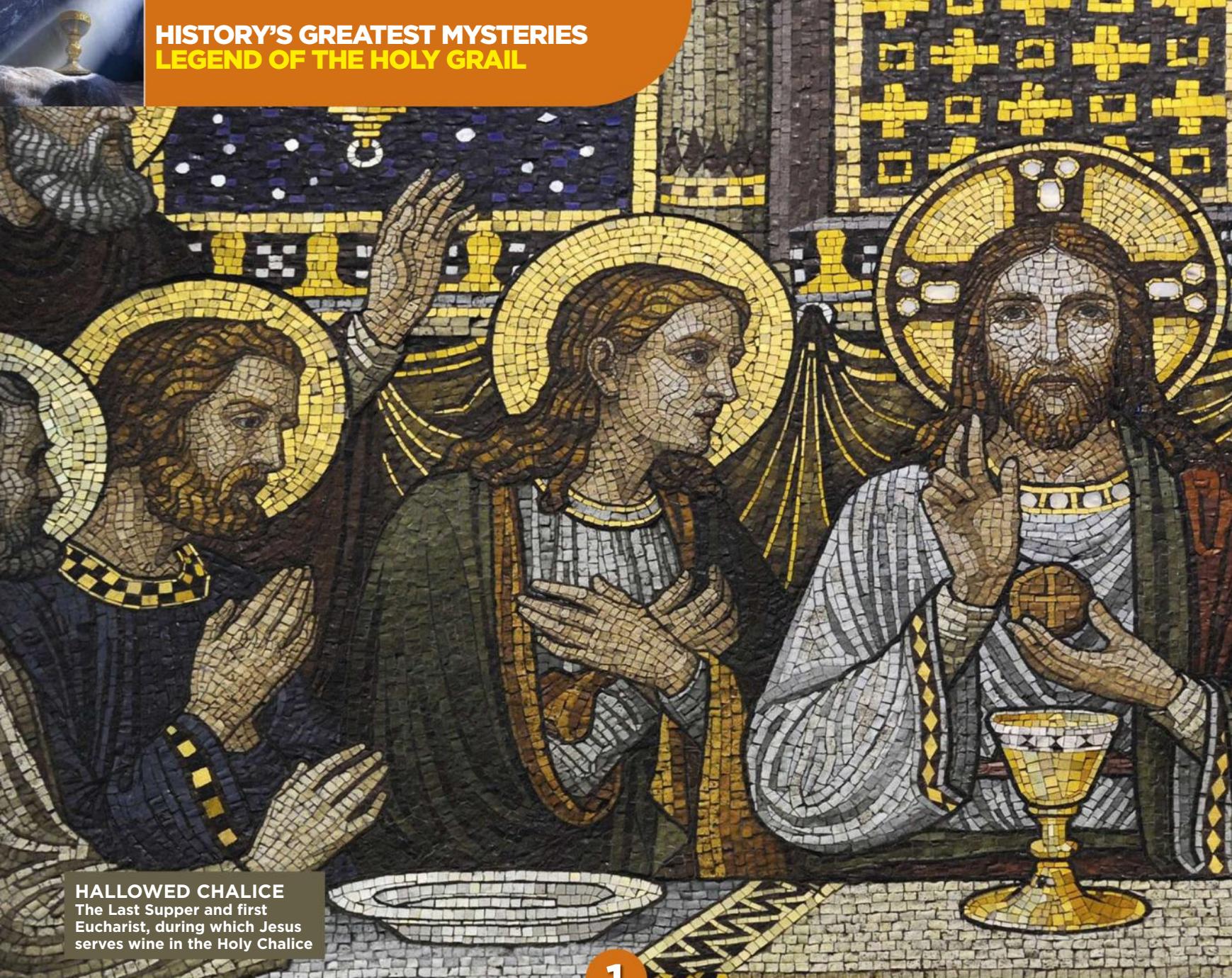
From the Knights Templar to the Nazis: the full story of history's greatest legend

WHAT'S THE STORY?

The quest for the Holy Grail has obsessed everyone from medieval poets and crusading knights to modern churchmen, historians, archaeologists, filmmakers, novelists and Nazi leaders – yet we don't know what it looks like, or even whether it exists at all.

In the most popular version of the story, the Holy Grail is a chalice used by Jesus during the Last Supper, which was later employed as a vial for his blood. It was seemingly smuggled across the Holy Land and Europe to Britain. Despite a series of mysterious Grail guardians, including the Fisher King and the Knights Templar, at some point the chalice disappeared.

The sacred silverware became spliced with other legends, invested with mythical powers, and hijacked by conspiracy theorists and demagogues. **Pat Kinsella** separates the few facts from the profuse fictions that continue to evolve around this elusive relic.



HALLOWED CHALICE

The Last Supper and first Eucharist, during which Jesus serves wine in the Holy Chalice

1

BIRTH OF A LEGEND

Where did the Holy Grail come from? And what might it be?

Holy relics purporting to originate from the earthly life of Jesus are common currency across the Catholic world – with various churches claiming to hold everything from the Holy Prepuce (Jesus's foreskin) through to nails used during his crucifixion. The most iconic and sought-after souvenir of all, however, is the ever-elusive Holy Grail.

The enduring obsession with the Holy Grail is fuelled by the fact that its form, location and very existence remain a complete enigma. It's popularly believed to be a goblet used during the Last Supper and then employed by Joseph of Arimathea to catch Christ's blood when his side

was pierced with a spear during his crucifixion. However, some depictions have it as a bowl or a serving plate, or even as the womb of Mary Magdalene – in a scenario where she bears Jesus's offspring.

The Holy Chalice from the Last Supper is referenced in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke (which historians believe were written c80-100 AD), but it was 1,000 years later that the tale of the Grail became popular, when the medieval romantics began to pen poems about it, entwining the yarn with Arthurian sagas.

The first-known reference to the Grail was made by French poet Chrétien de Troyes in

Perceval, le Conte du Graal (which translates as 'Percival, the Story of the Grail'), an unfinished poem written sometime between 1181 and 1190.

Chrétien credits a source book, but the original work remains a mystery.

His fantastical yarn sees Percival – one of King Arthur's knights – visit the realm of the Fisher King (the last in a line of men entrusted with the keeping of the Grail).

There, he beholds several revered items, including a *graal* ('grail') – an elaborate bowl from which the King eats a communion wafer. Although the Grail is more prop than main player in this poem, it inspired other writers to develop the concept.

25,000

The number of lines in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival* poem



“THE FIRST REFERENCE TO THE GRAIL WAS MADE BETWEEN 1181 AND 1190”

SACRED CUP TIE HOLY CHALICE v HOLY GRAIL

In *Joseph d'Arimathie*, written between 1191 and 1202, fellow Frenchman Robert de Boron fused the Holy Chalice used at the Last Supper, and the Holy Grail, a vessel containing Jesus's blood. Joseph of Arimathea is cast as the protector of the Grail, the first of a long line of guardians that will include Percival.

been accepted – even encouraged – by the Church.

In the early 13th century, German poet Wolfram von Eschenbach developed the story in *Parzival*, ('Percival'), an epic poem in which the hero embarks on a quest to recover the Grail. The Welsh romance *Peredur* continued the theme, but the story really took form in the Vulgate Cycle, a series of Arthurian legends written anonymously in the 13th century.

Two centuries later, Sir Thomas Malory translated these legends into English in *Le Morte D'Arthur* and the sagas – especially the quest for the Grail – have enjoyed waves of popularity ever since, being retold by a colourful collection of raconteurs from Wagner and Tennyson through to Monty Python, Spielberg and Dan Brown. But is there any fact amongst all the fantasy?

A HERO'S PLACE

Galahad takes his place at the 'Siege Perilous' – the seat of the Round Table which was said to symbolise Judas the betrayer's place, and which was saved for the Grail's hero.

NEW MASTER

Galahad leads the legendary knights of the Round Table

THE VULGATE CYCLE RECYCLED LEGEND

The vast Vulgate Cycle, penned in 13th-century France, saw the fusion of the popular action-packed legend with Christian principles. In these sagas, a knight named Galahad takes over from Percival as the main hero in the quest for the Holy Grail. Galahad is the illegitimate son of Arthurian knight Lancelot and the daughter of the Fisher King – the last protector of the Grail.

Although the authors of the Vulgate Cycle are unknown, it is, in essence, a morality tale in which the virginal and virtuous Galahad succeeds in a mission that was beyond his adulterous father, is cleansed of his earthly sins and ascends to heaven – so it was very possibly penned by clerics. By creating a direct link between Joseph of Arimathea and the Arthurian heroes, it also neatly ties the biblical story with England – something the country's Church happily exploited.

Whatever the objectives of the writers, their creation was immensely well received by European nobility. The epics came out as the real-life drama of the Crusades was happening, and the sacred order of the Knights Templar played a starring role in the protection of ancient Christian sites and relics in the Holy Land.

CELESTIAL BODY
French painter Henri Fantin-Latour gives the Grail the Romantic touch

LEFT: Eucharist is a key rite in Christian worship



THE GRAIL TRAIL

For centuries, explorers have chased the Grail's shadow all over the planet

Although most popular versions of the story ultimately point towards the chalice being transported to England, committed Grail hunters have chased the holy relic all over the world. Every perceived clue from ancient texts has been painstakingly pursued, while long-shot leads and far-fetched theories have led their followers to some fairly unlikely corners.

Over 200 churches and locations around the globe have laid claim to having current or historic possession of either or both the

150,000

The number of tourists that visit Rosslyn Chapel, Midlothian – which stars in *The Da Vinci Code* – annually

Holy Chalice and the Holy Grail – with some stretching the realm of credibility much further than others. Having a semi-plausible relic or a good miracle story can generate a boom in tourism for otherwise out-of-the-way destinations. As the public's obsession with the Grail tale shows little sign of abating, it's become big business, right around the world...



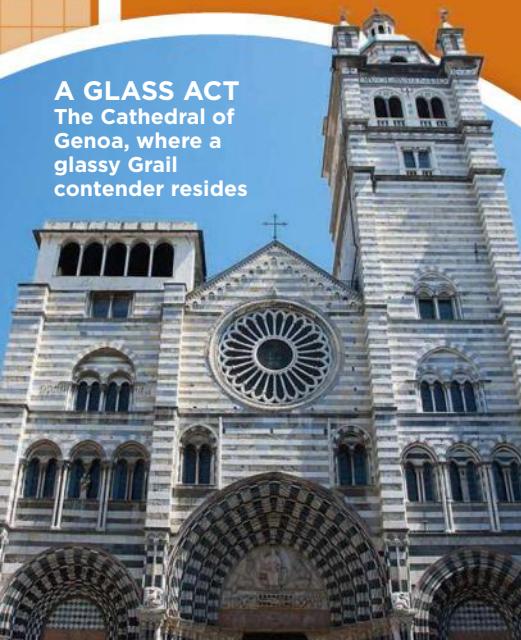
BASILICA OF SAN ISIDORO IN LEON

SPAIN

Home to the Chalice of Doña Urraca, a jewel-encrusted onyx goblet identified as the Holy Grail by author-researchers Margarita Torres and José Ortega del Rio in their 2014 book, *The Kings of the Grail*. The chalice has been in the Basilica since the 11th century, after apparently being transported to Cairo by Muslim travellers. It was later given to an emir on the Spanish coast who'd helped famine victims in Egypt, and passed to King Ferdinand I of Leon as a peace offering by an Andalusian ruler. Carbon dating suggests the chalice was made between 200 BC and AD 100.



A GLASS ACT
The Cathedral of Genoa, where a glassy Grail contender resides



CATTEDRALE DI SAN LORENZO

ITALY

House of the Genoa Chalice, once thought to be made from pure emerald and a hot contender for the Holy Grail, until it was transported to Paris after Napoleon conquered Italy and came back broken – revealing the 'emerald' was, in fact, green glass. This news would have come as a disappointment to the Genoese soldiers, who named it as their chief target when they defeated the Moors and sacked Almería in a ferocious conflict in 1147.



HOLY ABODE

The Valencia Chalice takes pride of place in its own chapel



CATEDRALE DE VALENCIA

SPAIN

The Valencia Chalice is housed in its very own consecrated chapel. The agate cup was reportedly taken by Saint Peter to Rome in the first century AD, and then to Huesca in Spain by Saint Lawrence in the third century. Some Spanish archaeologists say the cup was produced in a Palestinian or Egyptian workshop between the fourth century BC and the first century AD.



METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

NEW YORK CITY, USA

Current home of the Antioch Chalice, a silver-and-gold double-cup design ornament, touted as the Holy Chalice when it was recovered in Antioch, Turkey, just before World War I. The museum has always described this claim as 'ambitious' and the relic was recently outed as a standing lamp, not a chalice, believed to have been made in the sixth century AD.

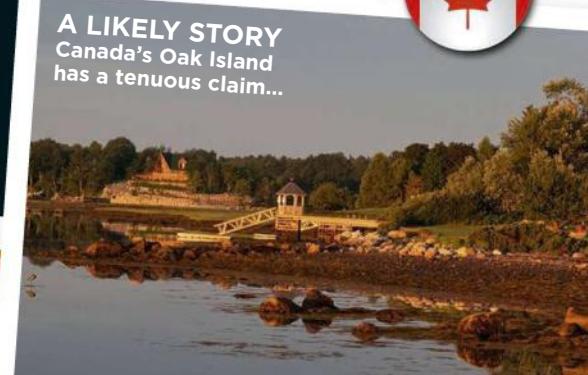
OAK ISLAND

NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA

One of the more creative claims has the Holy Grail stashed in a large pit on a 57-hectare island in Lunenburg County, on the south shore of Nova Scotia, where a group of exiled Knights Templar members are rumoured to have buried treasure, including the chalice and even the Ark of the Covenant. A Templar tomb has supposedly been found on the island.



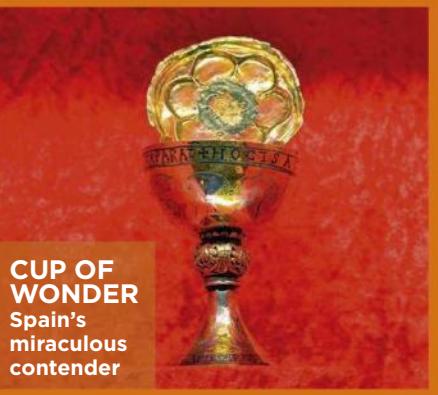
A LIKELY STORY
Canada's Oak Island has a tenuous claim...



O'CEBREIRO

GALICIA, SPAIN

This tiny town found itself suddenly magnified on the map, when, in the 14th century, a miracle happened in the local church, Santa Maria, causing the population to believe they had in their possession the Holy Grail. In the midst of the consecration, a peasant entered the church, emerging from a snowstorm raging outside. The priest scolded him for coming so far just for a little bread and wine and, at that moment, so the story goes, the bread and wine literally turned into flesh and blood.



CUP OF WONDER
Spain's
miraculous
contender

MONTSERRAT

CATALONIA, SPAIN

The Benedictine monks of Montserrat themselves claim that this monastery is the real Castle of Munsalvaesche, where the Grail was entrusted to Titurel, the first Grail King, in Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*.



CHÂTEAU DE MONTSEGUR

LANGUEDOC, FRANCE

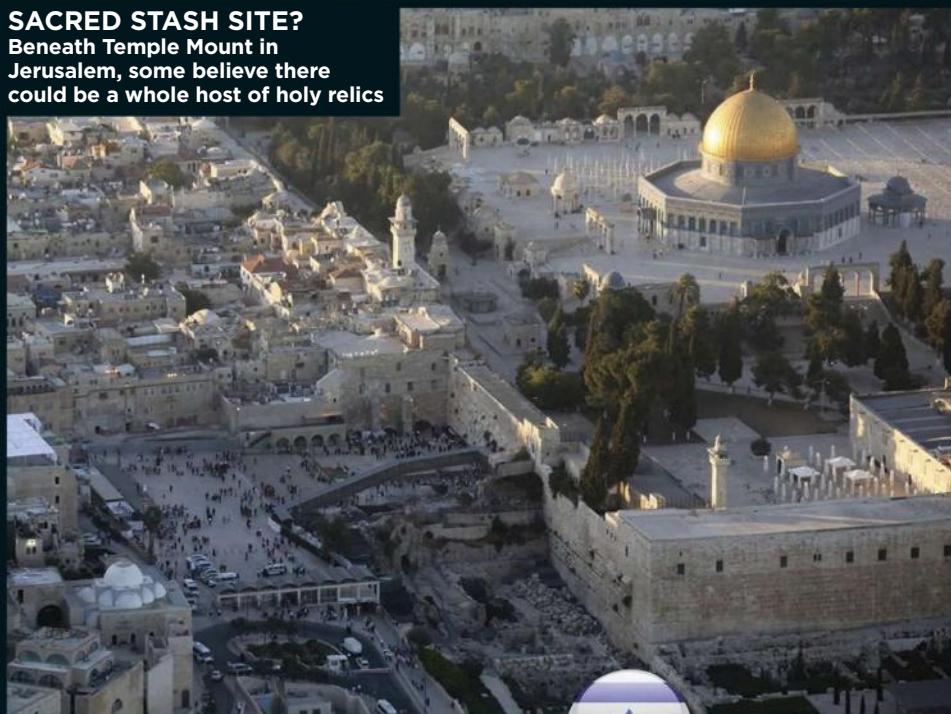
Another candidate for the Grail castle from von Eschenbach's *Parzival*, this ruined castle is a former Cathar stronghold – a Christian sect once believed to be keepers of the Grail. Shortly before this fortress was razed by a Catholic army in the 13th century, several Cathars allegedly escaped carrying a mysterious 'treasure' – which many believe to have been the Grail.

CATHARS' KEEP
Did the former fortress
once house the Grail?



SACRED STASH SITE?

Beneath Temple Mount in Jerusalem, some believe there could be a whole host of holy relics



THE JERUSALEM CHALICE

ISRAEL

In the seventh century AD, a Gaulish monk named Arculf recorded seeing a vessel he believed to be the Holy Chalice contained within a reliquary in a chapel near Jerusalem, between the basilica of Golgotha and the Martyrium. This is the earliest known first-hand report of the Grail after the crucifixion, and the only known mention of the Grail being seen in the Holy Land. The fate of the chalice he described is unknown. It has also been claimed that the Grail is hidden with other holy relics in the vast underground sewer complex of Jerusalem, beneath the legendary Solomon's Temple.

SAN JUAN DE LA PEÑA

HUESCA, SPAIN

A monastery where the Holy Grail was allegedly sent for protection when the Iberian Peninsula was invaded by Muslim forces. It's thought to be the inspiration for 'Corbenic', the castle of the Holy Grail in the Vulgate Cycle.



PEEL CASTLE

ISLE OF MAN

This stronghold is another of several contenders for the real-life 'Corbenic' castle from the Vulgate Cycle and Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*. If so, it was the domain of the Fisher King and the birthplace of Sir Galahad.



ACCOKEEK

MARYLAND, USA

It's a stretch, but local legend says that, in 1606 or 1607, a Jesuit priest travelled here aboard the ship of New World explorer Captain John Smith (right) with the Holy Grail in his carry-on luggage. Apparently he hid it in the Accokeek area, along the Potomac River.





OVER TO ALBION

The Grail myths are as much entwined with British folklore as international history...

After the crucifixion of Jesus, for reasons that remain unclear (and which may well owe more to poetic license and political and economic expediency than historical fact), the story of the Holy Grail is quickly transplanted from the Holy Land to the green and pleasant land of England.

According to legends that have been doing the rounds for at least the last 800 years, the keeper of the Grail, Joseph of Arimathea, arrived in England in the first century AD. He crossed the Somerset Levels (then flooded) by boat to arrive at the foot of Glastonbury Tor on an island known in Arthurian mythology as Avalon.

At the foot of Wearyall Hill, just beneath the Tor, the tired missionary thrust his staff into the ground, and rested. In the morning, so the story goes, his staff had taken root and grown into an oriental thorn bush now known as the Glastonbury Thorn.

Joseph then went on to found Glastonbury Abbey, and set about converting the locals to Christianity – with a staggering success rate. By 600 AD, England had a Christian king: Ethelbert. Meanwhile the Grail – which, according to some stories, was buried at the entrance to the

18,000

The number of people Joseph of Arimathea is said to have converted to in a single day

underworld in Glastonbury – became firmly interwoven into myths about King Arthur and the knights of the Round Table.

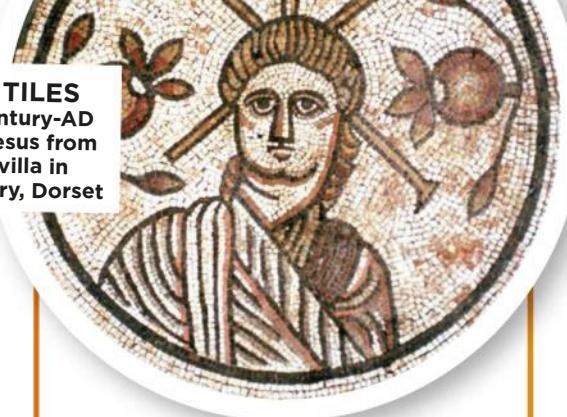
Contemporary records mention none of this, though, and the story only became popular after the publication of Robert de Boron's fanciful poem *Joseph d'Arimathie* at the end of the 12th century. The area may have been a significant site for pre-Christian communities, but Glastonbury Abbey was almost certainly established by Britons in the early seventh century.

GOOD PUBLICITY

However, stories connecting the dots between the site, Arthurian legend, the presence of the Holy Grail and miracles performed by 'blood relatives' of Jesus were all excellent marketing for the pilgrimage trade at Glastonbury. The local monks wholeheartedly endorsed the fables, right up until the Abbey was dissolved in 1539, during the English Reformation.

An early example of this can be seen when, in 1184, a fire destroyed most of the monastic buildings at Glastonbury. A few years later, around the time *Joseph d'Arimathie* was published, King Arthur and Queen Guinevere's tomb was miraculously discovered in the cemetery. There was a spike in pilgrimage traffic and the funds needed to rebuild the Abbey.

ON THE TILES
A fourth-century-AD mosaic of Jesus from a Roman villa in Hinton St Mary, Dorset



WANDERING MESSIAH

AND DID THOSE FEET IN ANCIENT TIME?

Another legend claims that Jesus himself travelled to Britain when he was a child or teenager, accompanying his uncle, Joseph of Arimathea, who was here to source tin. He is said to have visited Penzance, Falmouth, St Just in Roseland and Looe, all in Cornwall, as well as Glastonbury in Somerset. The idea was popularised in a poem by William Blake in the early 19th century, titled *And did those Feet in Ancient Time* and, 100 years later, it was made anthemically famous in the hymn *Jerusalem* with music by Sir Hubert Parry.

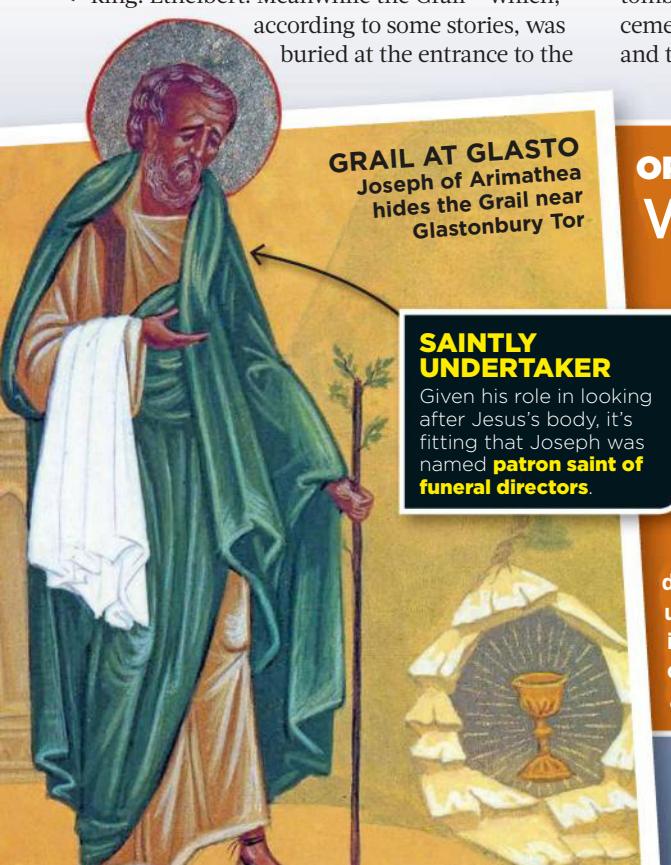
Britain had a strong druid presence at the time, and was a centre of learning, and it's been speculated that the young Jesus came to further his education. The journey was certainly possible – the Romans were travelling back and forth – and almost nothing is known about Jesus's life between the ages of 12 and 30, the so-called 'silent' or 'lost years of Christ'. However, there's little in the way of proof that this ever happened, and such stories were encouraged in the medieval period, when abbeys made a good business from religious pilgrimages.

ORIGINAL GRAIL MASTER

WHO WAS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA?

According to all four gospels of the Bible and the Acts of Pilate, Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy citizen of Judea and secret disciple of Christ who, after the crucifixion, recovered Jesus's body and laid it to rest in his own pre-prepared tomb. He is also thought to be Jesus's uncle (or great uncle), which would have obliged him to deal with his nephew's corpse (Jesus's father, Joseph, is presumed dead by this time). His actions apparently so upset the Jewish elders, however, that they imprisoned him. He quickly escaped, later claiming he was aided and abetted by an apparition of Jesus.

Some 1,200 years later, French writer Robert de Boron resurrected the character and elaborated on this scenario in his poem *Joseph d'Arimathie*. In it, he depicts the hero being given the Holy Grail by Jesus, after which he becomes its custodian. For unknown reasons, Joseph sends the Holy Grail with some of his followers to Glastonbury in Britain, where it becomes embedded in the Arthurian sagas. Some stories have Joseph himself travelling to Britain, establishing Christianity on the island before it had even taken hold in Rome, while others cast his son Josephus in this role. There are also claims that King Arthur and Sir Galahad were direct descendants of Joseph.

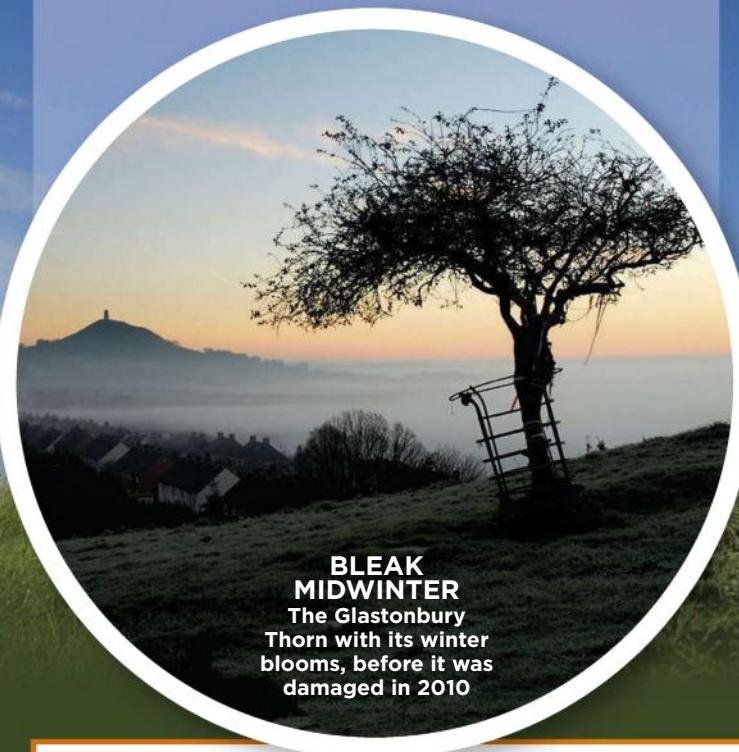


ROOT OF THE STORY CROWNING THORN

The legendary Glastonbury Thorn, or *Crataegus monogyna* 'Biflora', which supposedly took root from the staff of Joseph of Arimathea, is a variety of hawthorn found around Glastonbury and Somerset. Unusually for hawthorns, it flowers twice a year – in winter and spring – or, if you want to bend its branches around Christian symbolism, Christmas and Easter.

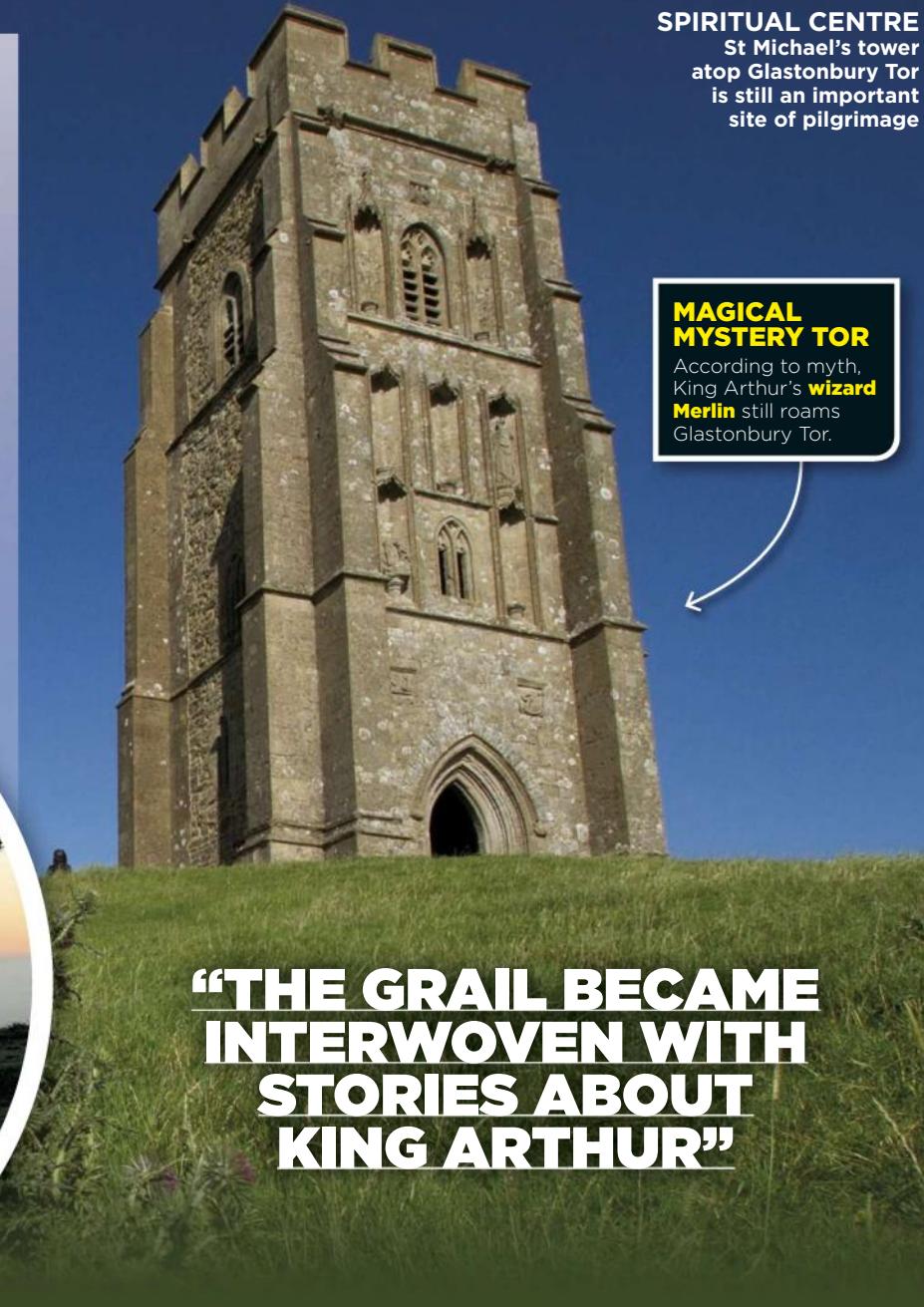
Since the mid-16th century, a blossom from the specimen in the churchyard of St John's Church, Glastonbury, has been sent to the reigning monarch at Christmastime, and is traditionally used to decorate the royal breakfast table over the festive period.

The 'original' Glastonbury Thorn at Wearyall Hill, was hacked down and burned as a relic of superstition by Cromwellian troops during the British Civil Wars. Another tree subsequently planted on the hill suffered deliberate damage in 2010.



**BLEAK
MIDWINTER**
The Glastonbury
Thorn with its winter
blooms, before it was
damaged in 2010

SPIRITUAL CENTRE
St Michael's tower
atop Glastonbury Tor
is still an important
site of pilgrimage



MAGICAL MYSTERY TOR

According to myth,
King Arthur's **wizard**
Merlin still roams
Glastonbury Tor.

**"THE GRAIL BECAME
INTERWOVEN WITH
STORIES ABOUT
KING ARTHUR"**

CUP OF LIFE THE NANTEOS CUP

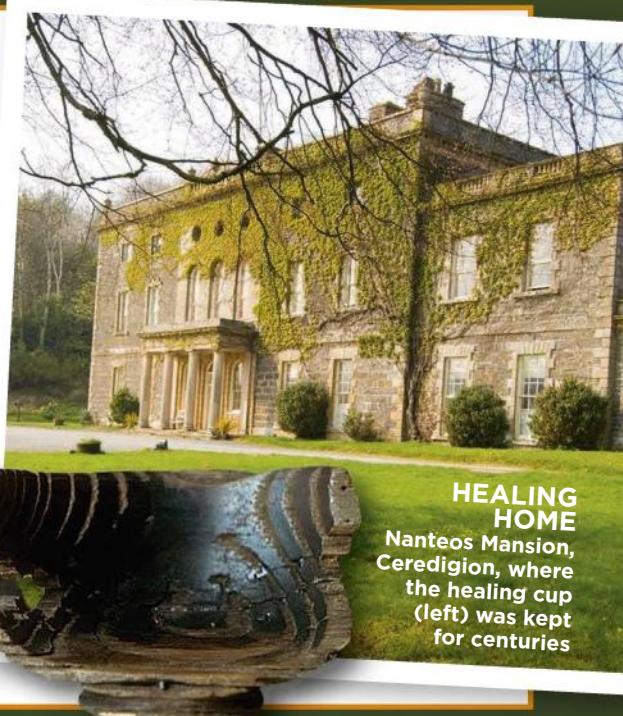
In the early 1900s, speculation was rife that the Holy Grail was sitting in a mansion in Wales, in the shape of the Nanteos Cup, a vessel made of olive wood or wych elm, which was believed to possess healing properties that could benefit anyone who drank from it.

Legend has it that, having been brought to England by Joseph of Arimathea, the cup was transferred from Glastonbury to Wales by monks during the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII. Initially it was taken to Strata Florida (known in Welsh as Ystrad Fflur), a grand Cistercian monastery, but was later transported to Nanteos Mansion, where it was displayed and made available to people in need of its healing powers. Evidently people not only drank from it, but also nibbled at the sides to get the full benefit.

In 1977, while the cup was on display at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, specialists from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical

Monuments of Wales examined the relic and concluded that it dated from the late Middle Ages, which rather ruined its credentials as a possible Grail contender.

This didn't do much to dampen demand for its services, however. Ownership of the cup eventually passed on to a family in Herefordshire, who kept it in a bank vault. While on loan to a person who was in hospital – seeking more mainstream medical assistance – in 2014, the cup was stolen. A year later, in June 2015, the cup reappeared, in circumstances almost as mysterious as those that surround its disappearance.



**HEALING
HOME**
Nanteos Mansion,
Ceredigion, where
the healing cup
(left) was kept
for centuries



A GOOD STORY

From medieval poems to modern action movies, the Grail has provided centuries of entertainment

For two millennia, the legend of the Holy Grail has been reported and contorted by imaginative poets, painters, writers, comedians and filmmakers – to such an extent that the small number of known facts have become increasingly hard to sift from an overwhelming mountain of speculative or purely artistic ideas.

Amateur historians and professional authors have gone off on wild tangents, generating countless pseudo-historical books

masquerading as seriously researched non-fiction. Indeed, a vast amount of flimsy and fantastical evidence has been reported as fact to support questionable theories. As a result, the Grail story has assumed a life of its own – one that constantly plays out on the pages of books and websites, and on TV and cinema screens – and each generation consumes a new version of it.

“THE GRAIL IS A POETIC INVENTION, AND SO WILL NEVER BE FOUND, ANY MORE THAN YOU WILL FIND HARRY POTTER’S GOLDEN SNITCH”

Richard Barber, author of *Holy Grail – The History of a Legend*

BACK IN THE LIMELIGHT VICTORIAN REVIVALISM

During the deeply religious fervour of the Victorian era, medievalism was the all the rage and yarns from the Middle Ages, such as Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur*, were constantly being reprinted and consumed by a public hungry for tales of chivalry and salvation.

The quest for the Holy Grail was a recurring theme across the arts throughout the age, but everything was based on the medieval myth, rather than known facts and historical events.

Painters began to depict scenes from Arthurian legends, especially members of the ever-earnest Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. When commissioned to decorate Oxford University's new union building, founder of the Brotherhood Dante Gabriel Rossetti used the Holy Grail as his central theme – thus seeding an awareness and interest in the subject in the fertile minds of future generations of scholars. It was a theme that Rossetti would return to numerous times in his watercolour paintings.

Over several decades, the pre-eminent poet of the era, Alfred Lord Tennyson (Poet Laureate for 40 years during Victoria's reign), published the epic Idylls of the King, a cycle of twelve narrative poems that retell the legend of King Arthur and his knights – including, of course, the quest for the Grail. These immensely popular poems were dedicated to the late Prince Albert.

William Morris, one of the most significant cultural figures of the era whose talents spanned everything from poetry to interior design, was also acutely interested in the sagas. He wrote verses about the Holy Chalice, and collaborated with Pre-Raphaelite artist Edward Burne-Jones to produce vast tapestries depicting the quest for the Grail, which were hung on the walls of the wealthiest businessmen of the industrial age.

THE CARPET TREATMENT
Galahad's victory is recorded in a tapestry by William Morris, John Henry Dearle and Edward Burne-Jones

20TH-CENTURY STYLE

THE QUEST ON SCREEN

The Grail has been quested after on big and little screens since technology made it possible, but most people will recall the story from at least one of three successful cinematic renditions...



EXCALIBUR (1981), was directed by John Boorman and starred Nigel Terry, Helen Mirren, Patrick Stewart and Liam Neeson, among many others. An action-packed adventure fantasy, it follows the story of King Arthur, from the moment he pulls the sword from the stone, to the quest for the Grail (via Guinevere and Lancelot's affair). The film, in contrast to most of the medieval literature, has Percival retrieve the Grail for an ailing Arthur, who sips from it and is restored to health.

474 million

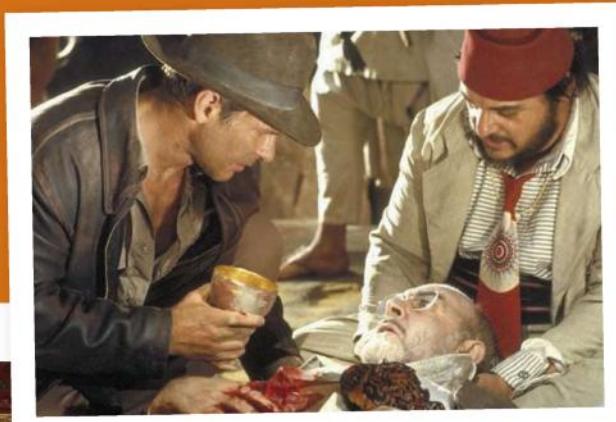
The sum, in US dollars, that *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* grossed at the box office





MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (1975), was the Python posse's first foray into full-length feature films and it is a gloriously ridiculous romp through the Arthurian sagas, with Graham Chapman in the lead role. As the hapless knights search for the Holy Grail they face various challenges and dangers, not least a killer rabbit.

INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE (1989), the third of Steven Spielberg's successful series of movies starring Harrison Ford as a swashbuckling archaeologist, sees Indy in action trying to rescue his father (Sean Connery). He then needs to find the Holy Grail before the Nazis get hold of it and use it to achieve world domination. Sound stupid? You might be surprised how close some of the plot elements are to the truth – turn the page for more.



PURE FICTION THE DA VINCI CODE

Few modern novels have generated as much commercial success – nor provoked such controversy – as Dan Brown's page-turning take on the Grail tale, which dramatically unfolds through the vehicle of a detective story. In the murder mystery book published in 2003, Brown explores the idea that the Holy Grail was not a physical chalice, but a woman – Mary Magdalene – who bore Jesus children and established a bloodline that continues today. He also portrays the secretive and controversial Catholic institute Opus Dei in a murderous light, and gives credence to a conspiracy theory about the Priory of Sion – the subject of one of the world's biggest hoaxes, which was perpetrated in the sixties, when Frenchman Pierre Plantard sought to show that the Merovingian kings of France were directly descended from Jesus. Brown's novel was lapped up by conspiracy theorists the world over, but widely and vigorously criticised for its historical and factual inaccuracies. Many of the ideas in the novel had been expounded before, in books such as *The Templar Revelation* (1997) by Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince, and *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (1982) by Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln and Richard Leigh. The latter is a pseudo-history book, which has also been roundly rejected by historians for being based on various mistruths, including the Priory of Sion con.

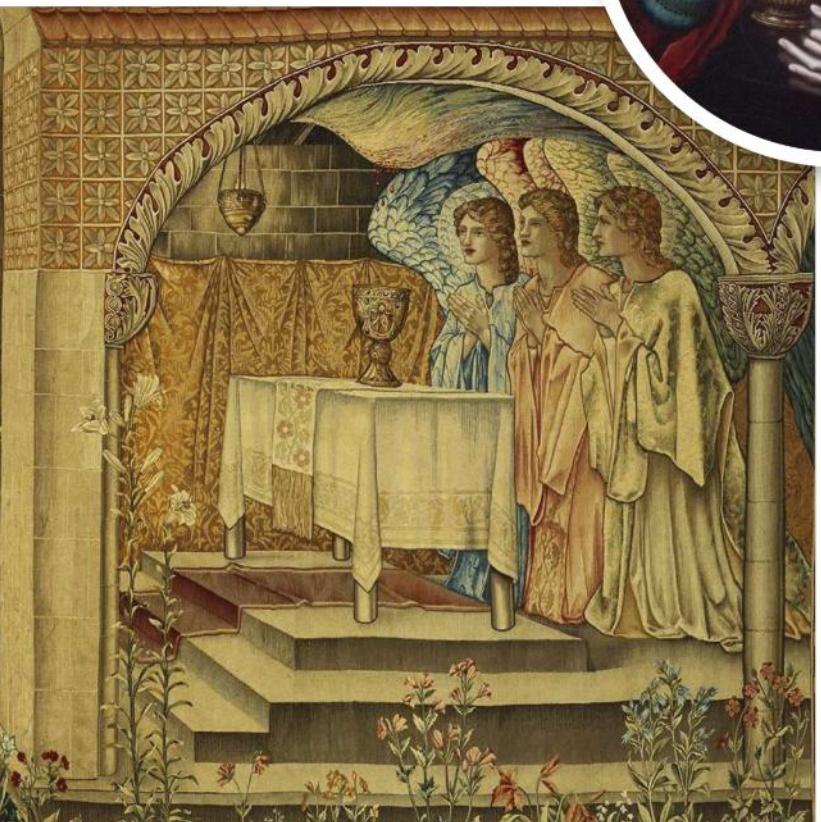
MYTH BUSTING

L-R: Audrey Tautou and Tom Hanks star in the 2006 film of *The Da Vinci Code*; Mary Magdalene plays a key role in Dan Brown's novel



THE BIG PICTURE

This vast Victorian tapestry, named 'The Achievement of the Grail', measures 2.4 metres high by nearly 7 metres long. It is currently on display in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.





HEIL GRAIL!

The extraordinary story of the Nazi Grail hunters

How do you inject a bit more historical surrealism into a story already heady with symbolism, intrigue and far-fetched fantasy? Simple – you introduce one of the most powerful men in Nazi Germany into the plot.

Heinrich Himmler, the eccentric head of the SS, had a lifelong interest in mysticism and the occult. A former chicken farmer, by the late thirties, he'd worked his way through the Nazi machine to become one of Hitler's top men (although the Nazi Führer regarded Himmler's mystical beliefs as "nonsense").

Himmler ran the SS as if it was an order of the Teutonic Knights, and dedicated serious resources to pursuing ancient myths and legends, attempting to splice them to his radical theories on racial purity and the superiority of Nordic and Aryan people.

In 1935, he co-founded the Ahnenerbe ('Ancestral Heritage') organisation, which was devoted to discovering "new evidence of the accomplishments and deeds of Germanic ancestors using exact scientific methods."

Some of the mooted projects read like plot suggestions for an Indiana Jones

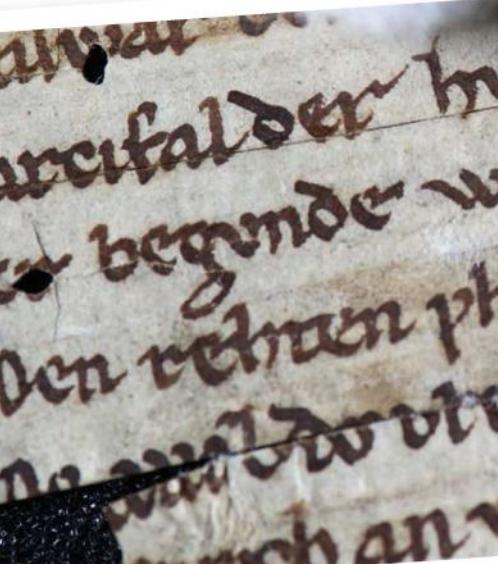
movie, discarded for being too over-the-top. They include a search for the lost city of Atlantis and an expedition (sanctioned by Himmler in 1937) to prove early Aryans had conquered swathes of Asia in 2000 BC, and that Buddha was from an Aryan offshoot of the Nordic race. Himmler further believed that Jesus wasn't a Jew, and that he too had Aryan blood.

GERMANIC ROOTS

Unsurprisingly, the legend of the Holy Grail and its alleged powers piqued his interest, especially since a seminal text that fostered the myth in medieval times was penned by a German. Not only that, but Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival* had subsequently been translated into a three-act opera – *Parsifal* – by every Nazi's favourite composer, Richard Wagner. All that was missing was a trained professional with specialist

5,000

The number of copies of Rahn's second book that Himmler had printed and sent to the Nazi elite



knowledge and a passion for the subject. And that's when Otto Rahn entered stage left.

Rahn was a German archaeologist already obsessed with the Grail, the whereabouts of which he was trying to discern by studying *Parsifal*. He'd become convinced it lay hidden around Montségur

"HIMMLER RAN THE SS AS IF IT WAS AN ORDER OF THE TEUTONIC KNIGHTS."

ALAMY XL/GETTY XS



OCCULT OBSESSED

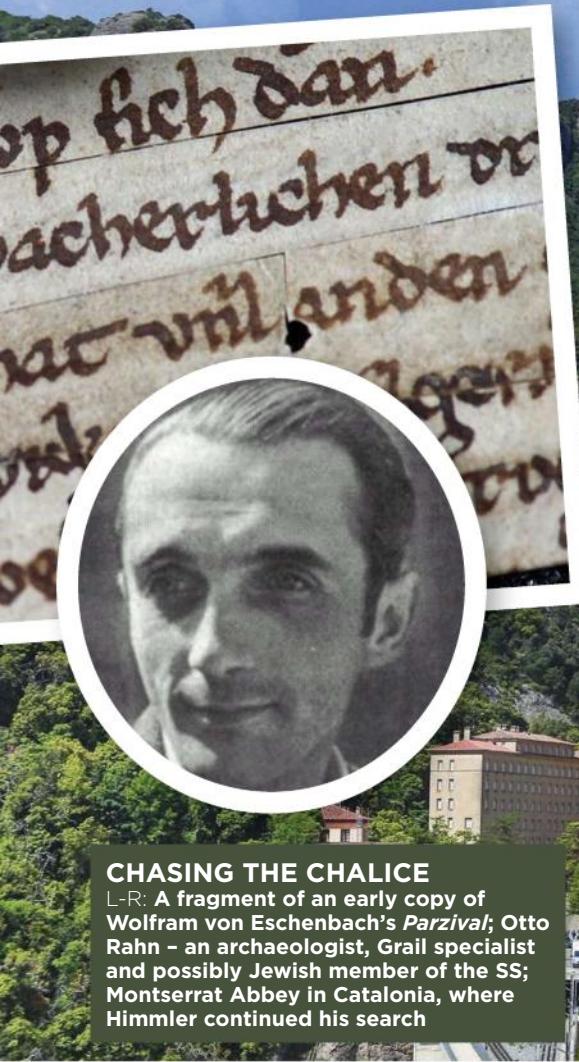
L-R: Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS and holy-relic fanatic; Wewelsburg Castle in Westphalia, where Himmler planned to keep the Grail; members of Himmler's Ahnenerbe organisation visit Tibet in 1939, looking to prove that early Aryans conquered the region



SLAVE LABOUR

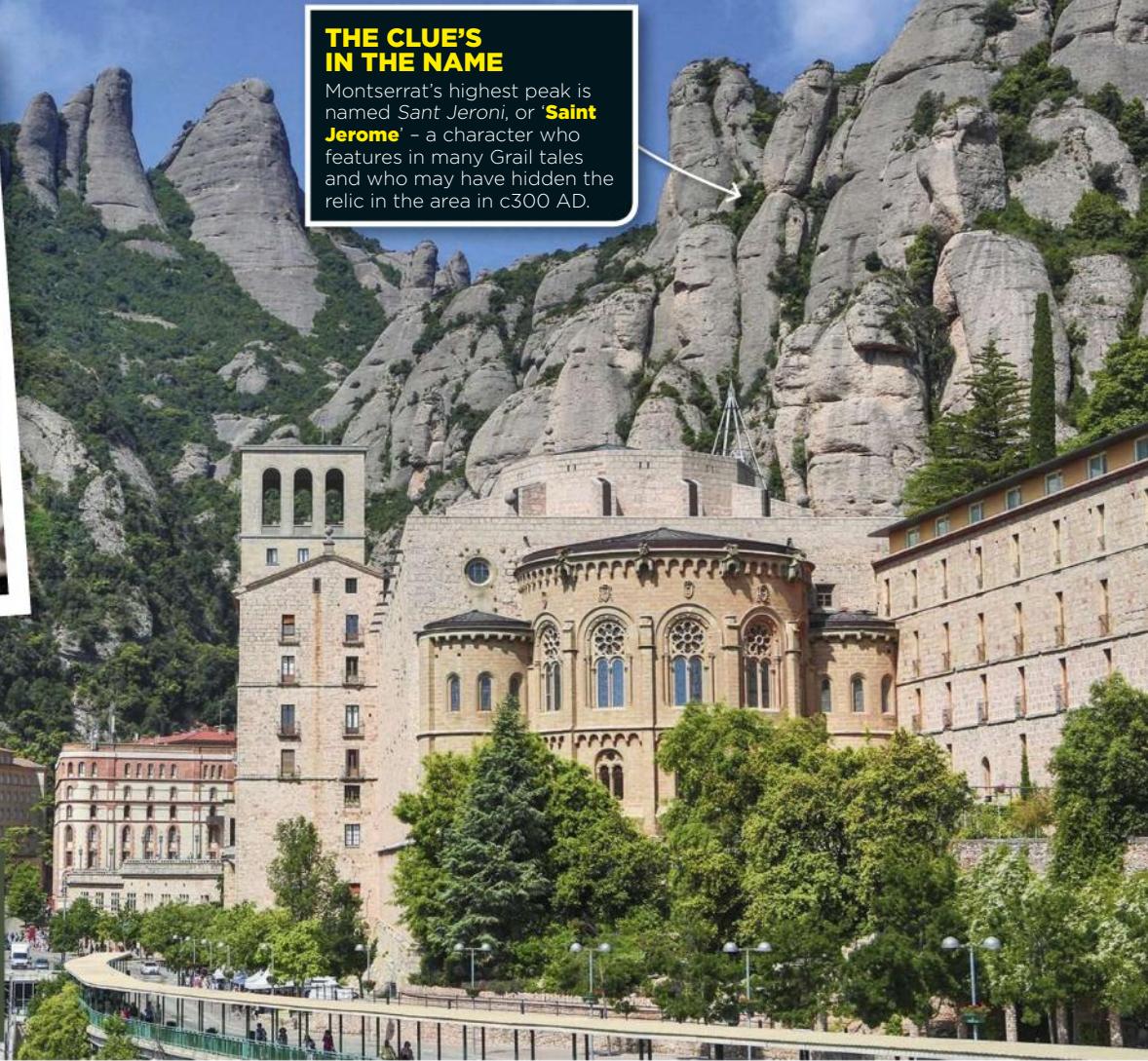
Himmler ordered vast renovations of Wewelsburg Castle. He used over 3,900 prisoners from the castle's concentration camp to conduct the work.





CHASING THE CHALICE

L-R: A fragment of an early copy of Wolfram von Eschenbach's *Parzival*; Otto Rahn – an archaeologist, Grail specialist and possibly Jewish member of the SS; Montserrat Abbey in Catalonia, where Himmler continued his search



THE CLUE'S IN THE NAME

Montserrat's highest peak is named *Sant Jeroni*, or 'Saint Jerome' – a character who features in many Grail tales and who may have hidden the relic in the area in c300 AD.

Castle in France's Languedoc region, once a stronghold for the Cathars – a medieval Christian sect that was wiped out by Catholic forces in 1244. Before their annihilation, three Cathar monks reputedly escaped, taking with

them a bag containing a mysterious treasure. Was this the Grail? Rahn reckoned so.

Throughout the summer of 1931, Rahn had scoured the region around Montségur, discovering a complex of caves used by the Cathars as an underground cathedral. Unfazed by his failure to find the chalice itself, he wrote a book called *Crusade Against the Grail*, outlining his theory. And that's when he came to the attention of the Reichsführer-SS.

Himmler offered him 1,000 reichsmarks a month to write a second book. Perhaps naively unaware that this sinister agreement implicitly required him to locate a relic that had been missing for 2,000 years, Rahn agreed, joined the SS and went on the payroll. "What was I supposed to do?" he apparently said to a friend later, "Turn Himmler down?"

HOPEFUL HIMMLER

Himmler had such faith that his man would produce the goods that he prepared a plinth in the basement of Wewelsburg (a Renaissance castle in Westphalia) for the Grail's arrival. Sadly for Rahn, the Grail remained elusive. In its absence he desperately penned a new tome, further explaining his quest: *Lucifer's Court: A Heretic's Journey in Search of the Light Bringers*.

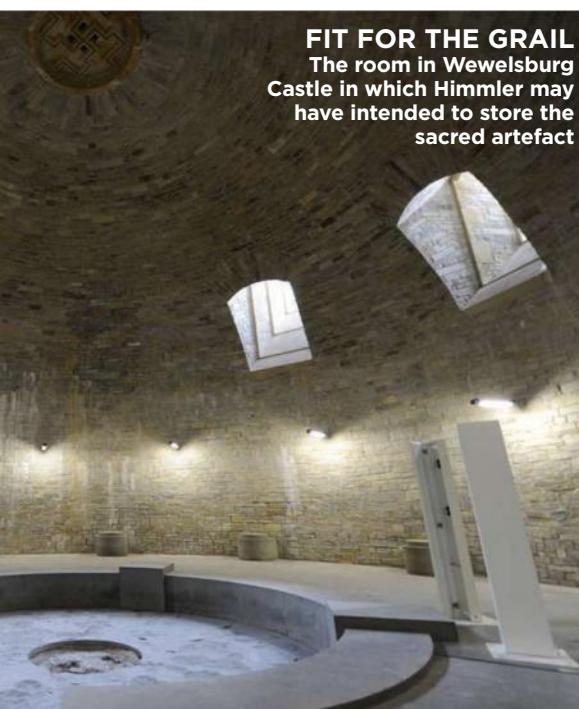
It was full of pseudo-scientific waffle and overly ornate mystical references, which

Himmler lapped up. However, when Rahn read the proofs, he discovered an anti-Semitic passage had been inserted. And here's the twist – Rahn is believed to have been Jewish. And he was certainly openly homosexual.

His sexuality caused him to fall foul of his SS overlords, but it was his rude awakening to the true nature of the Nazi regime that sealed his fate. For an indiscretion he was sentenced to serve three months as a guard at Dachau concentration camp, an experience that broke him. After attempting to resign from the SS – never really an option – he became aware that Gestapo assassins were preparing to kill him. In 1939, the 34-year-old archaeologist climbed high into the Tyrol Mountains in Austria, swallowed poison and died. His legacy was to inspire the character of Indiana Jones.

A year later, Himmler continued the mission himself, visiting Montserrat Abbey near Barcelona – another contender for "the marvellous castle of Montsalvat in the Pyrenees" described in *Parsifal*. There, he interviewed monks about the possible whereabouts of the Holy Grail, but he left disappointed.

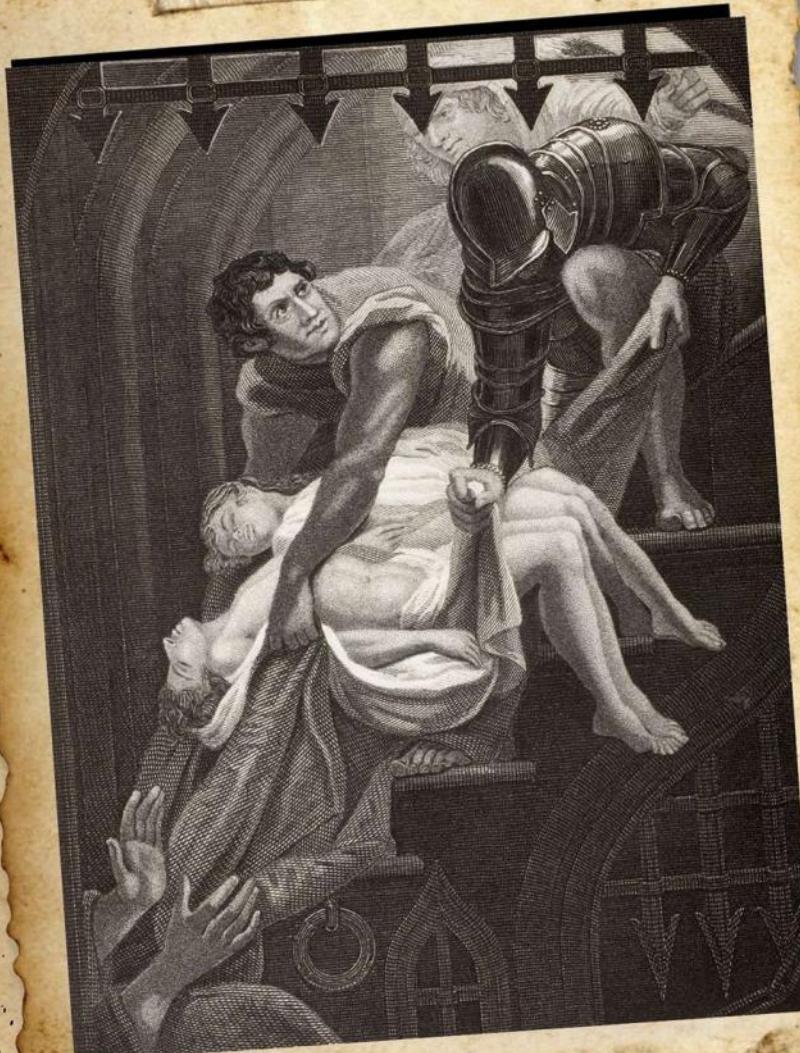
By 1943, Himmler was too busy (as Reichsführer-SS, Chief of German Police, Minister of the Interior and head architect of the Holocaust) to continue chasing holy relics, and one of the more bizarre chapters in the quest for the Grail was over.



FIT FOR THE GRAIL
The room in Wewelsburg Castle in which Himmler may have intended to store the sacred artefact

BRITAIN'S UNSOLVED CRIMES

From the Princes in the Tower and Jack the Ripper to the lesser-known case of the body in the wych elm tree, **Nige Tassell** presents the evidence in ten of the most putrid – and perplexing – felonies in history



Friday, September 22

Evening News
VIEW

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king out journalists, al Amin takes another step in the classic of tyrannical rule, not only Britishists, accused of being Government agents, were arrested there on Saturday out of Uganda.

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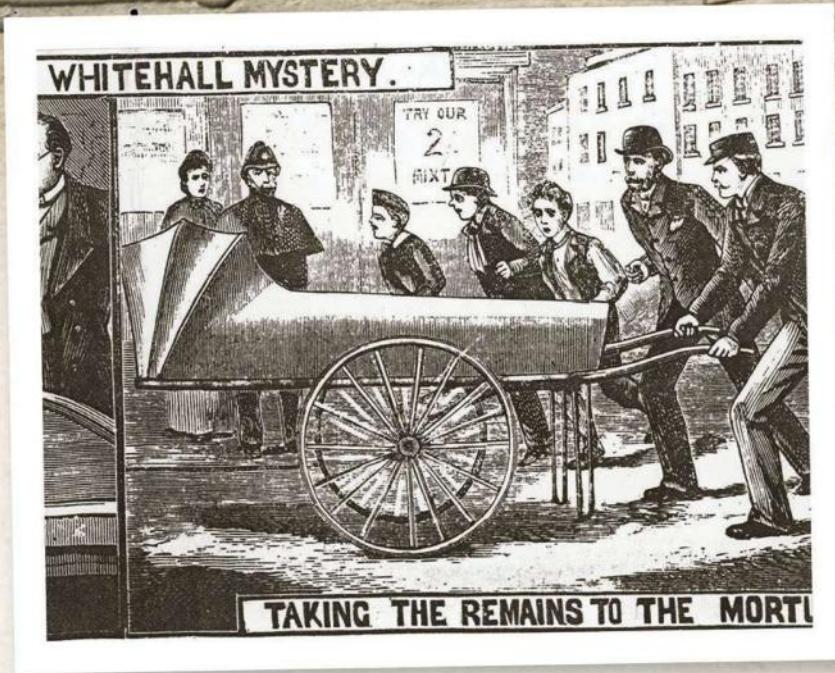
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THE TRUTH. THE WHOLE TRUTH

Jack the Ripper

Daniel Farson has already told how he discovered that Sir Melville Macnaghten, head of the CID soon after the Jack the Ripper murders, left papers naming as a prime suspect a man called M. J. Drutt.

Later research had discovered that Montague John Drutt was an unsuccessful barrister, whose father, uncle and cousin were all doctors. Before finally emigrating to Australia Lionel Drutt, the cousin, had had a surgery in the Minories, close to the scene of the murders. Montague Drutt would have been familiar with the surgery. There was some

evidence that Montague himself had lived in the Minories.

Sir Melville had written that he had little doubt that Drutt's family suspected Montague. A subsequent witness wrote of having seen, in Australia, a document entitled "The East End Murderer—I knew him," written by a Lionel Drutt or Drewett.

Montague Drutt drowned himself in the Thames soon after the last murder. There was evidence that

by
DANIEL
FARSON

as far as physical description and personality is concerned Drutt is closer to the upper than the concept of a black-bearded Russian lunatic.

most of the experts were with this theory. While it is far from certain that Drutt was an upper or middle-class man, with no one member of his family more than he was a crazy Russian doctor or barber-surgeon.

John Odell: "The peculiar question is whether the Ripper was a wild-eyed frenzied maniac lurking in the streets in fulfillment of his bloodthirsty, sadistic, and sadistic urge to kill."

He argued that if the Ripper had been a doctor his use for cutting up bodies would have been studied by his colleagues who have been so extreme that his colleagues would have noticed it. There would not have been such a continual urge to turn to murder.

Though it's virtually certain that the Ripper was not a doctor, I believe he did have some basic medical or surgical knowledge.

Drutt's own father, uncle and his cousin Lionel were all doctors. He was brought up in a medical atmosphere and may well have attended medical school.



In both arms conveys a further impression of the Ripper worked, probably directly with both hands at vicious speed.

It seems to me that there is every reason for believing that the Ripper was not a doctor.

I came to this conclusion when I started my research in 1989. I consulted the pathologist, Dr. Keith Simon, who told me that he had never believed in the "doctor" theory.

He argued that if the Ripper had been a doctor his use for cutting up bodies would have been studied by his colleagues who have been so extreme that his colleagues would have noticed it. There would not have been such a continual urge to turn to murder.

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Drutt's own father, uncle and his cousin Lionel were all doctors. He was brought up in a medical atmosphere and may well have attended medical school.

Lastly, he may not have been a doctor, but he did have some basic medical or surgical knowledge.

Though for the

THE STANDARD
Wednesday, February 9, 1983 17p
Incorporating the Evening Standard

Shergar £2m ransom demand GUNMEN KIDNAP DERBY WINNER

DERBY winner Shergar is being held by gunmen today who are demanding a £2,000,000 ransom for the horse's return.

by Patrick Clancy and Christopher Poole

that the IRA or any other Republican group was involved. Security forces, however, were taking the view that para-military organisations could have been involved.

The Aga Khan was told of the ransom demand at his Paris headquarters and a statement was expected later.

'Dastardly acts'

His uncle, Sudrakha, said: "I think it's dastardly acts especially against an innocent animal, not even aware of its own value. The whole thing seems like fiction. I have no harm come to him and that he is quickly recovered."

The stable yard, which is some 40 miles

from Dublin, lies in remote countryside. It is difficult for passengers to locate, particularly at night, which indicates the high degree of local knowledge on the part of the gunmen.

Security at most racing stables is generally another recent development. In Ireland, for example, another recent example of brazen crime was

the recent kidnapping of a racing horse.

One horse escaped and was

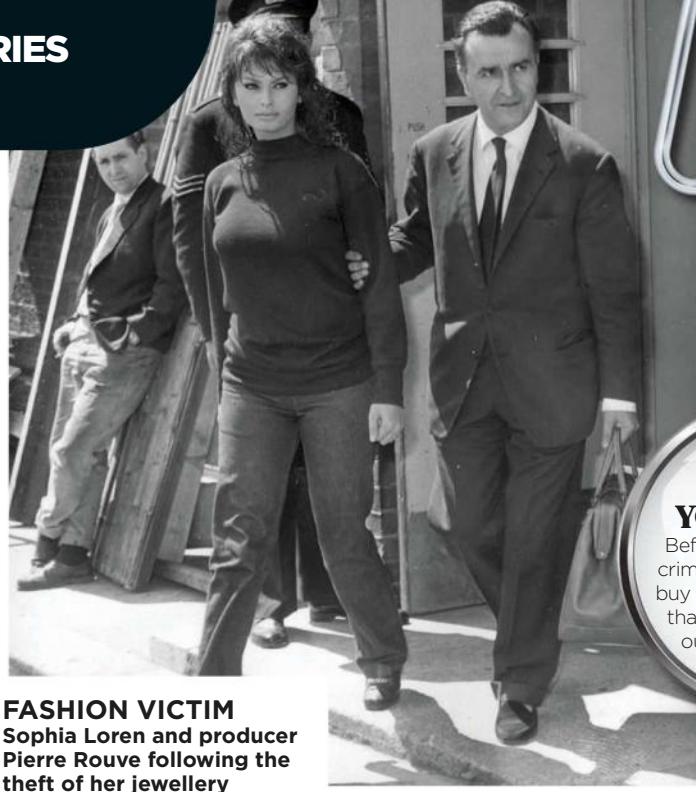
MURDER RIGHT ON THEIR PATCH

A police HQ with a dark secret

Sometimes the crime is right under the police's nose. In 1888, while the new headquarters of the Metropolitan Police were being built at the original site of Scotland Yard in Whitehall, a grisly discovery was made – the dismembered remains of a young woman had been locked in a vault. While police ruled out a connection with the Jack the Ripper murders occurring elsewhere in the capital at the same time, they were able to match the remains with a severed arm that had previously been found on the muddy banks of the River Thames. The identities of both the victim and murderer were never known.



TABLOID GOLD
A sketch published
in *Police News*



DID YOU KNOW?

Before he committed a crime, Peter Scott would buy himself a new suit so that he would not look out of place among high society

FASHION VICTIM
Sophia Loren and producer
Pierre Rouve following the
theft of her jewellery

DIAMONDS AREN'T FOREVER

Crime in the name of equality?

In May 1960, while staying in rented accommodation near Elstree Studios during the filming of *The Millionairess*, the Italian actress Sophia Loren was robbed of £185,000 worth of jewellery. The jewels were never recovered, nor was anyone ever tried for the crime, even though credible suspects made themselves available – two notorious cat-burglars, Peter 'The Human Fly' Scott and Ray 'The Cat' Jones, both claimed credit for the theft. Scott believed he had been "sent by God to take back some of the wealth that the outrageously rich had taken from the rest of us".

THE POISONER OF PIMLICO

The death that defied science

In 1886, in Pimlico in central London, a wealthy grocer by the name of Thomas Bartlett was found dead with a lethal amount of liquid chloroform in his stomach. The prime suspect was Bartlett's wife Adelaide, but she was found not guilty at her trial because the prosecution couldn't satisfactorily explain how the poison had been administered. There was no damage to Bartlett's throat or windpipe. "Now that she has been acquitted for murder and cannot be tried again," declared Sir James Paget, a leading surgeon of the day, "she should tell us in the interests of science how she did it!"

THE BODY IN THE TREE

Who put Bella in the wych elm?

In 1943, four teenagers were hunting for birds' eggs in Hagley Woods, near Birmingham. But when one of the lads climbed a wych elm tree, it was a human skull that he found. In fact, the rest of a woman's skeleton was there in the tree's hollow trunk, albeit missing a hand, which had been buried nearby. The mystery didn't end there. Graffiti about the case began to appear across the West Midlands, all rendered in the same handwriting: "Who put Bella in the wych elm?". The local police never cracked the case and the real identity of 'Bella'

seemed to die with her. Some say that she was a victim of an occult ceremony, others that she was executed for her part in a Nazi spy ring.



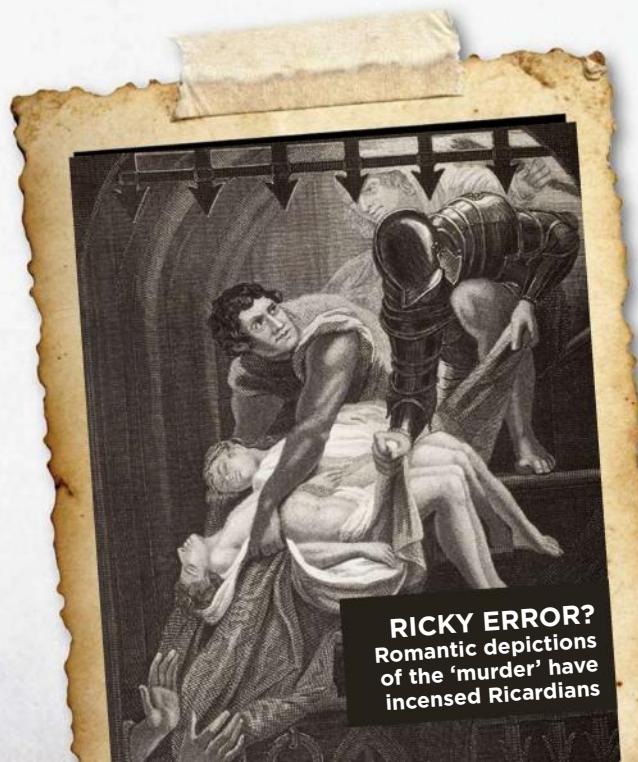
ONGOING MYSTERY
Graffiti relating to the case continues to appear, with the most recent in June 2016

"Some say she was a victim of an occult ceremony"

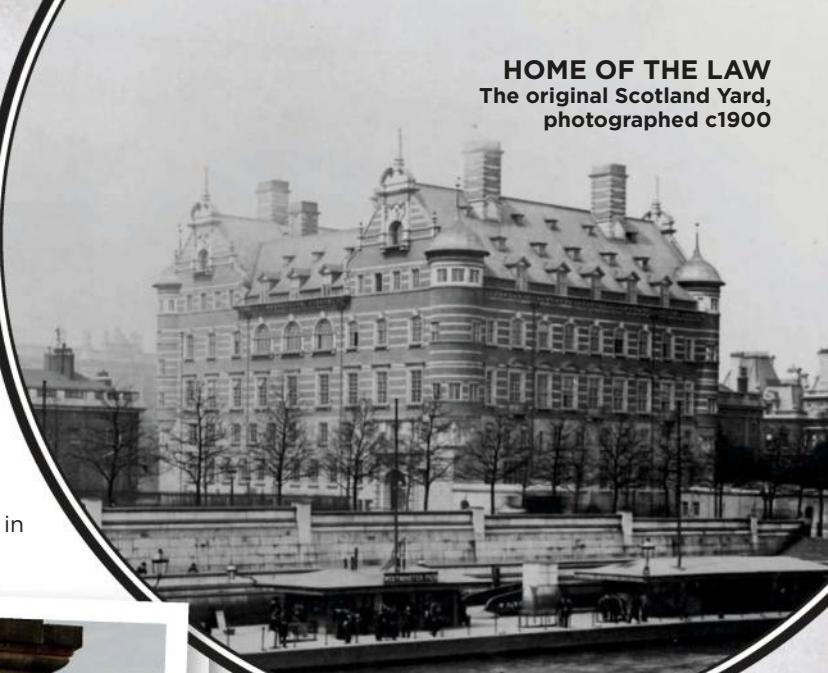
A MATTER OF REGICIDE?

The mystery of the Princes in the Tower

The Princes in the Tower is arguably the oldest cold case in English history. In 1483, Edward IV died suddenly, meaning his 12-year-old son (also Edward) was now King. As he travelled to London to take up the throne, he was met by his recently appointed protector, his uncle Richard, the Duke of Gloucester. The Duke took Edward to the Tower of London, where he was later joined by his younger brother Richard. They were never seen again. Their uncle took the throne for himself (as Richard III) and was widely suspected of ordering the two princes' murders. In 1674, during building work at the Tower, the skeletons of two young boys, around the ages of 12 and ten, were discovered.

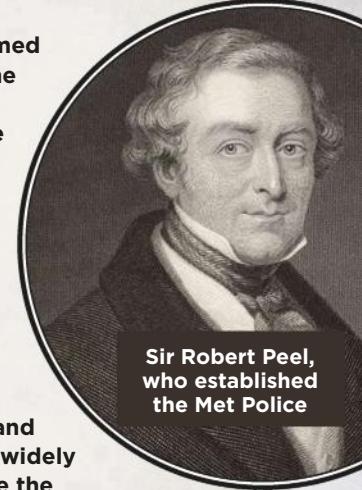


RICKY ERROR?
Romantic depictions of the 'murder' have incensed Ricardians



SCOTLAND YARD A BRIEF HISTORY

After it was formed in 1829 under the guidance of Robert Peel, the Metropolitan Police was known by several nicknames. While 'bobbies' tended to refer to uniformed constables on the beat, 'Scotland Yard' was more widely used to describe the force's detectives (the name derives from its first headquarters in Whitehall, the public entrance of which was on a back-street known as Scotland Yard). The force sent out its first plain-clothes detectives in 1842, and these 'spies' were initially viewed with mistrust by the public. However, with the explosive growth of London during the 19th century, their presence was necessary to unpick some particularly gruesome crimes, especially those of Jack the Ripper. Immortalised in the Sherlock Holmes books of Arthur Conan Doyle, the Scotland Yard detectives of the Victorian era continue to have a particular resonance – figures such as Inspector Frederick Abberline and Frederick Porter Wensley, aka the Weasel.



Sir Robert Peel,
who established
the Met Police

THE THEFT THAT WASN'T A THEFT

When a visitor's comments book just isn't good enough...

In 2003, an apparently sophisticated theft occurred at the Whitworth Gallery in Manchester, with raiders evading alarms and cameras to bag paintings by Gauguin, Van Gogh and Picasso. After an anonymous phone call, the artwork was discovered the next morning 100 yards away behind a disused public toilet. Attached to them was a handwritten note: "The intention was not to steal, only to highlight the woeful security". Relieved that the paintings had been recovered and with only minimal rain damage, the gallery nonetheless heeded the unknown robbers' advice and upgraded its security measures.



TROUBLED WATERS
After bike parts were retrieved from the river, former soldier Ronald Light was put on trial

THE GREEN BICYCLE CASE

Did shell shock drive a man to murder?

The village of Little Stretton, in rural Leicestershire, was rocked by a murder in 1919. At first, police believed the death of cyclist Bella Wright to have been a simple road accident. That was before an officer discovered a bullet at the scene and then noticed an entry wound on the young woman's body. She had last been seen in the company of a man on a green bicycle – five months later, a World War I veteran suffering from shell shock called Ronald Light was witnessed dismantling such a bike and throwing it into a river in nearby Leicester. Light was arrested, after which an army holster and live ammunition were also recovered from the water. At his trial, though, inconclusive ballistics evidence, plus his articulate demeanour, saw him walk free. Press coverage of the trial had painted Light as a well-spoken ex-Army officer accused of the murder of a mere "factory girl".

THE KIDNAPPING OF A CHAMPION

A tragic example of backing the wrong horse

In 1983, the record-breaking racehorse Shergar was into his second year as a breeding stallion at a stud in the Republic of Ireland when he was kidnapped by an eight-strong gang of masked gunmen. They had turned up at the groom's home, held his family at gunpoint, and forced him to help load Shergar into a horse box. The kidnappers demanded a £2 million ransom from the horse's owner, but there was a problem. They believed Shergar to have been wholly owned by the billionaire Aga Khan – in actuality, 34 syndicate members each had a share in the 1981 Derby winner. The ransom was never met and Shergar was never seen again. It is widely believed that the IRA was behind the crime, the aim being to raise funds for the organisation. Claims abound that, following the unproductive negotiations, the horse was shot and buried at a mystery location in the Irish countryside.

STAY THE COURSE
The ransom was not paid, in part for fear that other horses would be targeted



THE BAFFLING CASE OF JULIA WALLACE

While Julia's husband went to see a man about a job, a sad and inexplicable fate awaited her

When, one night in January 1931, insurance salesman William Herbert Wallace arrived at his chess club in Liverpool city centre, he was handed a telephone message. The message requested that Wallace visit a potential client - a Mr RM Qualtrough of Menlove Gardens East - the following evening about an insurance policy. Twenty-four hours later, Wallace, lured by the whiff of commission, did exactly that.

However, there was no Menlove Gardens East. And there was no Mr Qualtrough. Wallace had been sent on a wild goose chase. Returning to his home in the Anfield district of the

city, though, he found, so his testimony goes, the body of his wife Julia, viciously bludgeoned to death in the couple's sitting room. Wallace swiftly became the main suspect - the local detectives believed that he himself had made the call, which was traced to a phone box just 400 yards from his front door. Everything was otherwise all too convenient, too coincidental. Despite his protestations, and despite the fact that not a single trace of Julia's blood was found on him, Wallace was convicted of his wife's murder. However, this was quashed on appeal, saving him from the hangman's noose and leaving the intriguing case unsolved to this day.

Julia's killing has fascinated many crime novelists, including Dorothy L Sayers and Raymond Chandler - the American described it as "the nonpareil of all murder mysteries". In 2013, PD James claimed to have solved the case, believing that the phone call was a prank made by a disgruntled insurance clerk whom Wallace had reported for financial irregularities, costing him his job. James mooted that the phone call was unrelated to the crime, but was used by Wallace as a fortuitous alibi, allowing him to murder his wife before heading out to the fictitious address.

"The call was traced to a phone box just 400 yards from his front door"

JOHN BULL THE MAN THEY



DID NOT HANG



HAPPY MARRIAGE?
ABOVE: Julia Wallace was beaten to death at her home in 1931 LEFT: Sensationalist coverage suggested that her husband had got away with the murder RIGHT: In a letter, he urged that the pair had been happy together

moment I don't actually realize that my dear wife has really gone from me. We were so much to each other and so completely happy together that I fear it will be the uprooting of every thing.

Nothing can bring her back. My only hope now is that the criminal may soon be brought to book.

Very sincerely yours
W.H. Wallace

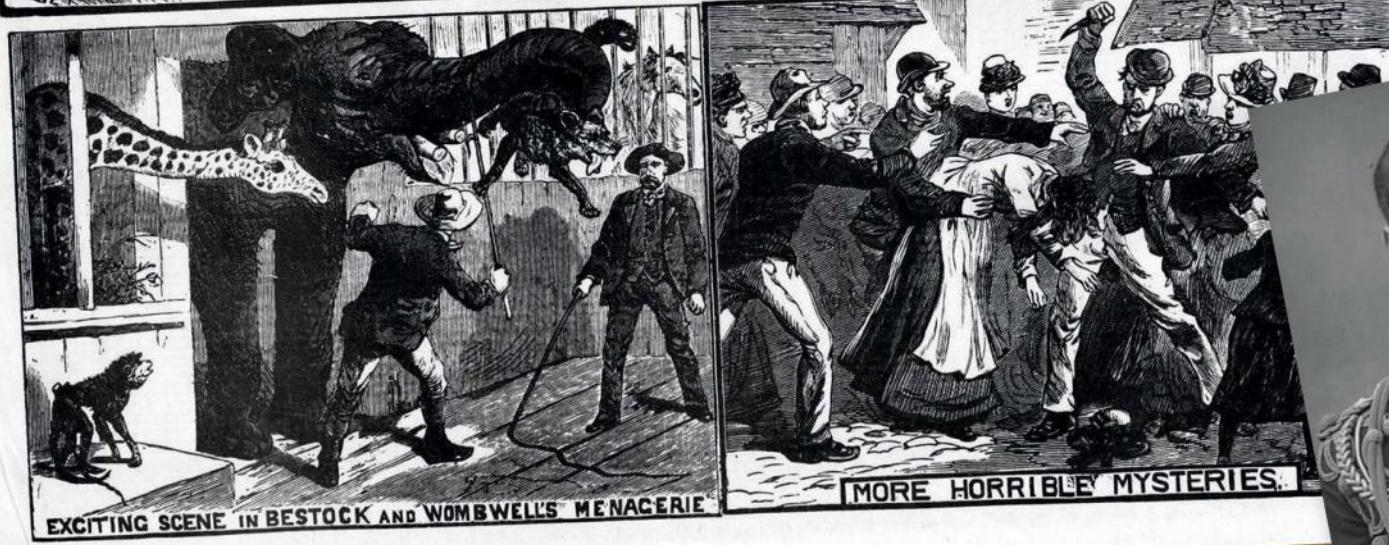
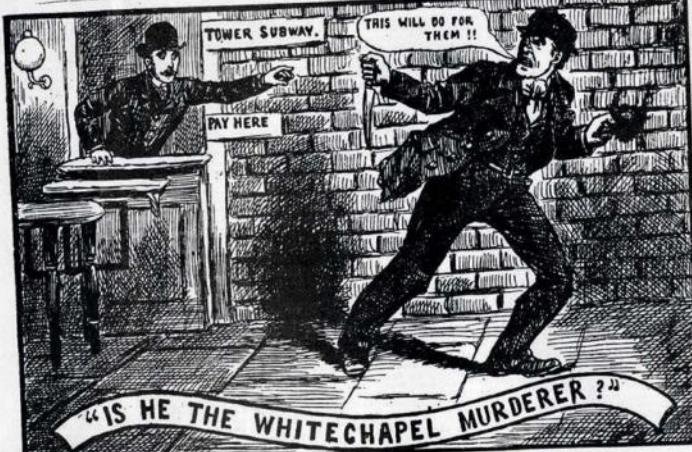
POLICE THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS

LAW COURTS AND WEEKLY RECORD

Price One Penny.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1888.

No. 1,284.



EXCITING SCENE IN BESTOCK AND WOMBWELL'S MENAGERIE

MORE HORRIBLE MYSTERIES.



JACK THE RIPPER

Perhaps Britain's most notorious criminal case, the identity of the killer remains unknown and has inspired a whole new line of study – 'Ripperology'.

The most notorious unsolved case in British history – and certainly the one that's been speculated over to the greatest degree – is that of Jack the Ripper. This is the name given to the man responsible for five (and possibly up to 11) brutal murders of young prostitutes in the late 1880s in Whitechapel, east London.

The identity of the killer baffled and frustrated the finest minds of Scotland Yard at the time. The investigation was hampered by the hundreds of letters received by news agencies and officers of the law purporting to have been sent by the killer himself. One of the more notable was the 'Dear Boss' letter, forwarded to Scotland

Yard by the Central News Agency. Eerily, it was signed 'Jack the Ripper' and, from then on, this soubriquet was generally used for the killer, replacing the previous name of 'Leather Apron'.

Also muddying the investigative waters were several other brutal murders in the vicinity. While many attempted to apply these to Jack the Ripper's list of crimes – in particular newspapers trying to ramp up their circulations – none of these shared the same modus operandi as the murders committed between August and November 1888. These became known as the 'canonical five'. As police surgeon Thomas Bond concluded, "all five murders no doubt were committed by the same hand".

The mutilations that grouped these murders together led the detectives - taken from Scotland Yard, the Whitechapel division of the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police - to suspect a butcher or a slaughter-man to be behind the killings. Accordingly, more than 70 butchers were questioned by police, but

been a few high-profile, if unlikely, suspects. Winston Churchill's father, Lord Randolph Churchill, apparently resembled the man last seen in the company of the fifth victim, Mary Kelly, while the author Lewis Carroll was also under suspicion at one point. Even one of Queen Victoria's grandchildren – Prince

Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale - has been heavily linked with the murders, which was a line of enquiry adopted by the 2001 Johnny Depp movie *From Hell*.

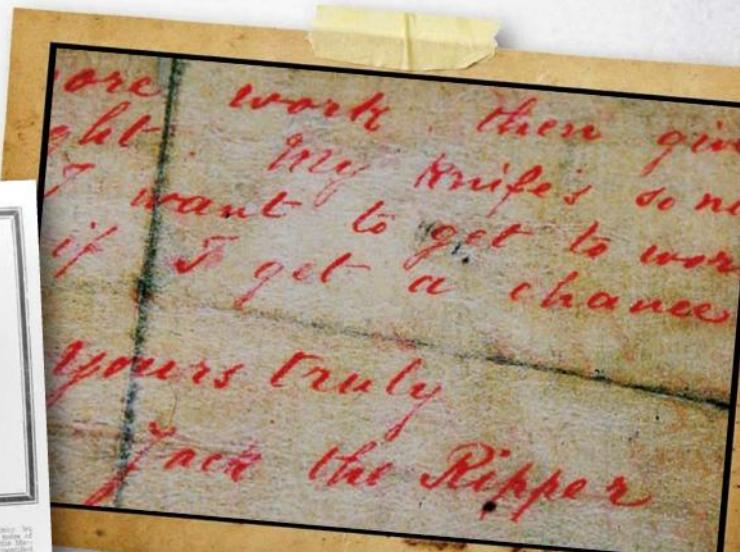
While such brutal murders weren't uncommon at the time – and, indeed, the Victorian era knew several serial killers – it's Jack's unknown identity that has fired the public imagination.

The fascination surrounding the case remains as strong as ever, and though many more may try, it is a mystery unlikely to ever be solved.

their alibis proved watertight, too. For the same reason, it was also mooted that the perpetrator could be a surgeon.

The basis for putting a certain person under suspicion for these crimes was often circumstantial at best. One of the police's chief suspects, a barrister called Montague Drewitt, was in the frame largely because he committed suicide in the Thames shortly after the fifth murder and had suffered from mental-health issues. No other evidence discovered even loosely tied him to the killings.

Among the dozens of names put forward in subsequent years have



DID U KNOW?

Around 2,000 letters related to the case were received by the police and newspapers, with hundreds claiming to be from Jack

 WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Do you have a theory about Jack the Ripper's identity? Get
in touch via Facebook, Twitter or email
email: editor@historyrevealed.com

WHO DUNNIT?

WHO DUNNIT?
FAR LEFT: *The Illustrated Police News*, one of Britain's earliest tabloids, closely followed the story SECOND FROM LEFT: The Duke of Clarence was one of the suspects LEFT: Montague Druitt, who committed suicide shortly after the murders, had been linked to the crimes ABOVE: A letter sent to a news agency, allegedly from Jack

10 Lost Treasures

From glimmering Imperial Russian artefacts to ancient lost cities, these ten treasures are just waiting to be found



The Amber Room was built using amber panels backed with gold leaf, and took six years to complete



Fabergé working on the design for another valuable egg, but would it stay in Russia?



FLOR DE LA MAR

STRAIT OF MALACCA, INDONESIA/MALAYSIA

Perhaps the richest vessel ever lost at sea, *Flor de la Mar* contained artefacts stolen from the Portuguese colonies, as well as gifts from the King of Siam. Although the ship was in an awful condition by the time of her final voyage, she was still entrusted with carrying the valuable cargo back to Portugal via Goa. Unfortunately for the colonists, the tropical storms of South East Asia closed in one night, and the ship sank near Sumatra in 1511.

THE AMBER ROOM

EASTERN EUROPE

This opulent gilded room, designed with gold, amber and precious gems, belonged to the Russian royal family at Tsarskoye Selo. However, in 1941, it was stolen by the Nazis and was moved to Königsberg (now Kaliningrad, Russia) for reconstruction. Then, as the Allies invaded in 1945, it was lost in the pandemonium – and it's never been seen since. While the hunt for the real treasure continues, visitors to the Russian palace can enjoy a beautifully reconstructed version of the glorious, shining room.

HONJO MASAMUNE

JAPAN

In Imperial Japan, swordsmiths were greatly respected craftsmen, and Masamune was the most revered of all. After World War II, American troops forced Japanese households to give up all weapons, including their ancestral ones – so the Honjo Masamune was lost. Some say this priceless sword is now located in the USA.

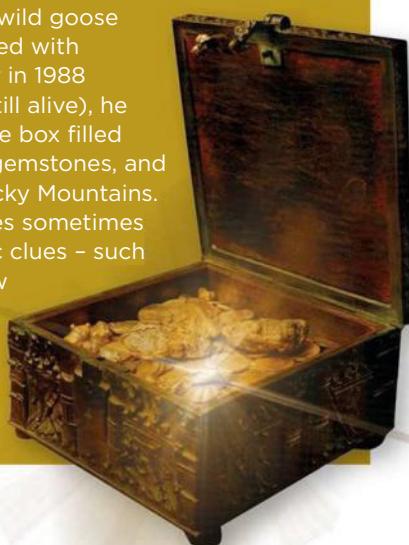


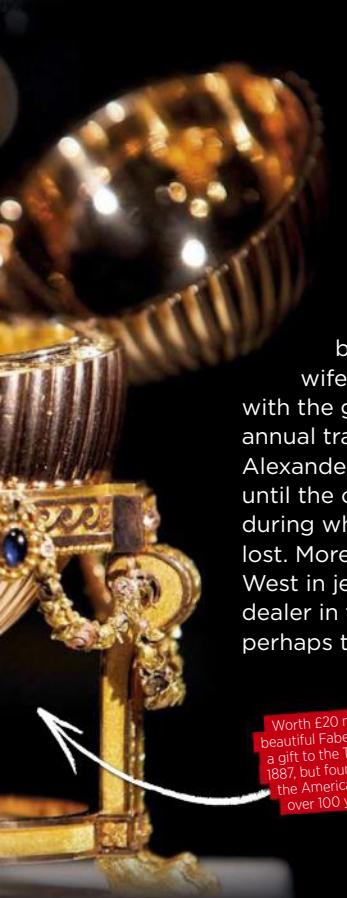
Allied soldiers take stock of family heirlooms

FENN TREASURE

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, USA

Eccentric millionaire Forrest Fenn decided that, when faced with death, he would send the world on a wild goose chase. Diagnosed with terminal cancer in 1988 (though he is still alive), he crafted a bronze box filled with gold and gemstones, and hid it in the Rocky Mountains. While Fenn does sometimes dish out cryptic clues – such as “Put in below the home of Brown” – the chest is yet to be found.





THE LOST FABERGÉ EGGS WORLDWIDE

In 1885, Tsar Alexander III commissioned jeweller Peter Carl Fabergé to make a beautiful, bejeweled egg as a gift to his wife Empress Maria. She was so delighted with the gift that the intricate eggs became an annual tradition, and Fabergé was kept on retainer. Alexander's son, Nicholas II, continued the custom until the outbreak of the Russian Revolution of 1917, during which seven of the original 50 eggs were lost. More eggs were sold by the Soviets to the West in jewellery auctions. However, a scrap metal dealer in the US found one in an antiques shop, so perhaps there's one lying in your attic somewhere!

Worth £20 million, this beautiful Fabergé egg was a gift to the Tsar's wife in 1887, but found its way to the American Midwest over 100 years later



The Inca Atlantis Paititi is said to be built from gold

LOST CITY OF PAITITI

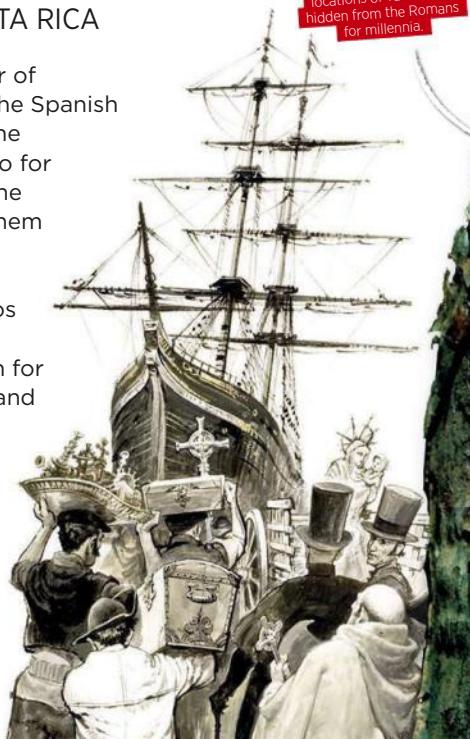
SOUTH AMERICA

When the Spanish conquered the Inca in the 16th century, they expected to find vast treasure awaiting them, but it was nowhere to be found. It may lie in the lost city of Paititi, a folkloric golden citadel in uncharted Amazon rainforest. However, evidence of the city's existence is scarce. Hunts for it have resulted in finding other valuable artefacts, such as previously uncharted Inca ruins. But in such a dangerous part of the jungle, many explorers have died in pursuit of the wealthy city.

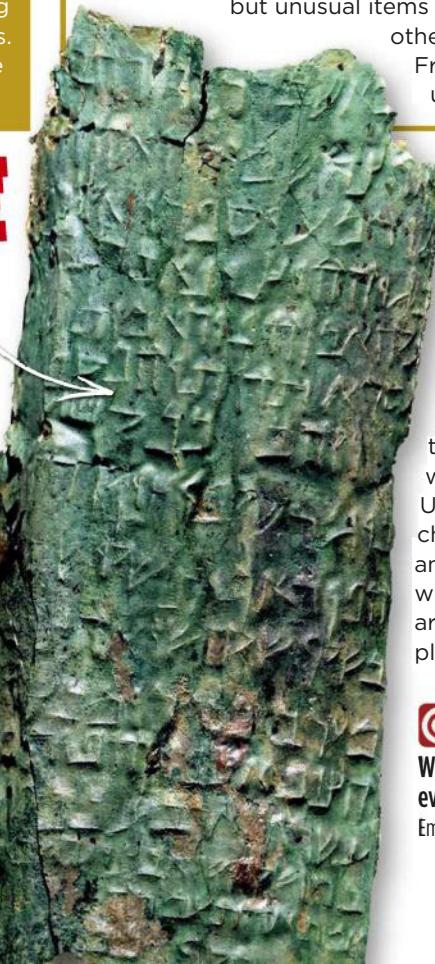
TREASURE OF LIMA

COCOS ISLAND, COSTA RICA

During the Peruvian War of Independence in 1820, the Spanish governor of Lima sent the city's treasures to Mexico for safekeeping. However, the ship that was carrying them suffered a mutiny. The captain and his crew reportedly went to Cocos Island to hide the loot, where they would return for it. They were captured, and the captain apparently offered to tell the Spanish the location of the chests. Upon arrival at Cocos, he escaped into the jungle, and was never seen again.



An archaeological treasure by itself, this metal scroll, found in 1952, gives the locations of vast riches hidden from the Romans for millennia.



DUTCH SCHULTZ'S SWAG

NEW YORK, USA

On his deathbed, German-American gangster 'Dutch' Schultz started talking of a safe, in which he placed \$50 million of his ill-gotten gains. It was taken into the Catskill Mountains, to ensure that no other mobster would get their hands on it. The safe is supposed to be buried in Phoenicia, New York State, with an X marked on a nearby tree. Each year, treasure hunters trawl the locality in the hunt for Schultz's buried millions.



Paranoid gangster Dutch Schultz met a grisly end, but his legacy lives on



OAK ISLAND TREASURE

NOVA SCOTIA

Local legend claims that the notorious Captain Kidd hid £2 million worth of treasure in a pit, but prevented hunters from getting it by building shafts that frequently flood the hole. Sceptics argue that this is a natural phenomenon, but unusual items found inside the pit suggest otherwise. Even former US President Franklin D Roosevelt tried to unearth the famed cash!

TREASURE OF THE COPPER SCROLL

WEST BANK, MIDDLE EAST

This Dead Sea Scroll, made just after the Biblical era, gives tantalising clues to locations where family valuables are buried. Unfortunately, the landscape has changed dramatically since AD 100, and clues such as "In the gutter, which is in the bottom of the tank" are no longer useful. Sounds like the plot of a new Indiana Jones movie...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What other lost treasures are there? Have you ever discovered any valuables in your attic?
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com



FOLK HERO

We've been telling his story for centuries, but who was the *real* outlaw who dared defy King John?



ROBIN HOOD

The truth behind England's
greatest legend





Daring escapes, diabolical villains, valiant freedom fighters, love across a class divide – the Robin Hood story has got the lot. But the question that's been puzzling historians for centuries is – are these escapades the product of a medieval fiction-writer's fertile imagination, or could they in some way be grounded in historical reality? In other words, did a real-life Robin Hood ever exist?

Every generation has its favourite Robin Hood. To those of a certain age he is Kevin Costner, releasing a flaming arrow with unerring precision to the strains of Bryan Adams' mega-hit 'Everything I Do I Do It For You'.

For readers of an older vintage, Robin will always be synonymous with Errol Flynn, the swashbuckling, green-eyed Saxon knight, who in the 1938 production, foiled King John's dastardly plans in glorious Technicolor.

For those with less conventional tastes, however, the archetypal Robin Hood may not be a man at all. Instead, he's a frog named Kermit, racing to Maid Marian's rescue in the Muppet Show's unforgettable rendition of the famous outlaw tale in 1979.

Three very different productions these may be, but each is testament to the spectacular success of what is surely the world's ultimate outlaw story. Robin's trusty arrows have been pricking the public imagination ever since his tale was first told sometime, somewhere, in the depths of the Middle Ages. And, centuries later, his magnetism is showing no signs of waning.

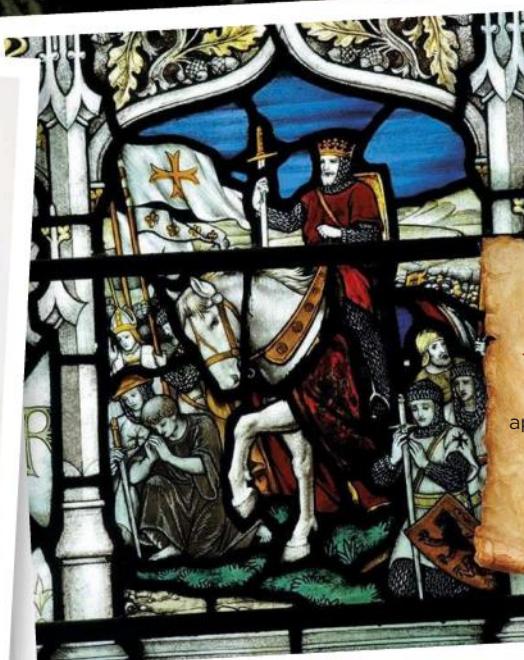
THE STORY

There are almost as many versions of the Robin Hood story as there are trees in Sherwood Forest. But most modern adaptations of the tale begin with England's brave and noble king, Richard the Lionheart, heading off to the Holy Land on crusade. With Richard occupied overseas, his evil, grasping brother, John, usurps the English throne and embarks on a reign of terror. Ably assisted by the equally diabolical Sheriff of Nottingham, John taxes his people until the pips squeak and imprisons (or worse) those who are unable or unwilling to pay up.



FOREST CAMO

It is indeed likely that Robin Hood **wore green**, possibly a woollen tunic, leather boots, and **light armour like a gambeson**. And, perhaps, a hood.



DID YOU KNOW?

Robin Hood has appeared on the small and big screen 68 times

HOOD LIFE
ABOVE LEFT: *A Mery Geste of Robyn Hoode* is one of his oldest surviving tales, printed 1492-1534
ABOVE: Richard I, one of the tale's protagonists

men, eluding their attempts to capture him and, of course, robbing from the rich to give to the poor. In this, he is assisted by his 'Merry Men', a band of outlaws that includes the massive Little John – who befriends Robin after defeating him in a fight with quarterstaffs – and Friar Tuck, a portly, jovial man of the Church with a soft spot for good food and wine. Yet the Merry

Into this maelstrom steps the brilliant outlaw-archer Robin Hood. He decides to take a stand against John and his evil sheriff. Operating from a base deep in Sherwood Forest, Robin masterminds a guerilla campaign against the Sheriff's



FIGHT FOR WHAT'S RIGHT
RIGHT: Little John and Robin Hood fight using their legendary quarterstaves MAIN: A bronze statue of Robin Hood now stands beneath Nottingham Castle

LITTLE JOHN

The story goes that Robin Hood met Little John when **the giant tried to prevent him crossing a bridge**. Robin was defeated, but John agreed to join his band.



WHO WAS WHO?

Heroes and villains

MAID MARIAN

Robin's love interest is invariably beautiful, well bred and courageous. And, of course, she always gets her man.

LITTLE JOHN

Little John is usually cast as Robin's second-in-command, a seven-foot, quarterstaff-wielding giant of a man.

FRIAR TUCK

The Friar is the portly, jovial chaplain of the Merry Men who loves food and ale almost as ardently as he worships God.

WILL SCARLET

Is Will Scarlet Robin's brother, his cousin or his nephew? Is he a scarlet-clad dandy, or grubby and violent? It all depends on which version of the Robin Hood tale you read.

THE SHERIFF OF NOTTINGHAM

The classic villain of the Robin Hood stories is hellbent on keeping the trade routes through Sherwood Forest open, and sometimes has lecherous designs on Maid Marian.

GUY OF GISBOURNE

Guy is the Sheriff's partner in crime, who in one early version of the story is hired to kill Robin. He fails and gets his head chopped off for his troubles.

ALAN-A-DALE

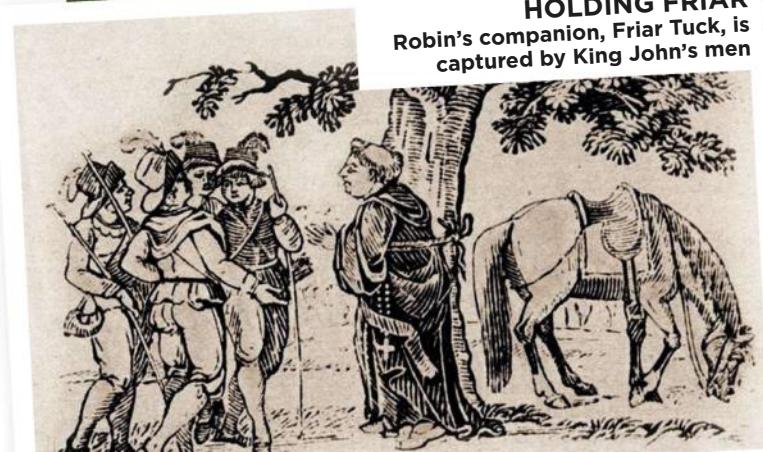
Alan is a wandering minstrel who joins the Merry Men after Robin gallantly rescues his sweetheart from an unwanted marriage to an old knight.

KING JOHN

The infamous medieval king's plans to usurp his brother's throne and subject England to a reign of terror are thwarted – with the help, of course, of the Merry Men.

HOLDING FRIAR

Robin's companion, Friar Tuck, is captured by King John's men



“Robin’s trusty arrows have been pricking the public imagination for centuries”

Men don't have things all their own way. The Sheriff comes up with a plot to capture Robin by announcing an archery tournament at Nottingham Castle. Robin quits the safety of the forest to take part in the tournament and wins, but is taken prisoner by the Sheriff's men and sentenced to hang.

Death appears certain until the noblewoman Maid Marian helps the Merry Men rescue Robin and spirit him back to the forest. Soon Robin is back at Nottingham Castle to rescue Marian from the evil Sheriff's clutches and pay

his respects to King Richard, who has just returned to reclaim the throne from his brother. England is safe, and Robin and Marian live happily ever after.

MAN OR MYTH?

But did any of this actually happen? To answer this question, we have to leave the 21st century far behind, and return to an age when the name 'Robin Hood' first left its imprint on the written record. We know that Robin was

>



HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES ROBIN HOOD

already a literary figure by around 1377 because he shows up – albeit fleetingly – in *Piers Plowman*, a poem by William Langland. In it, Sloth, the drunken priest, declares that he might not know the Lord's Prayer but that he can recite the "rymes of Robyn Hood".

We have to fast-forward to about 1450 to find the first substantial reference to Robin in a written text. That arrives in the form of the ballad *Robin Hood and the Monk*, which tells us how Robin goes to Mass at St Mary's Church in Nottingham, only to be recognised by a monk who he has previously robbed on the highway. Robin is arrested, and the not-so-heroic hero is only saved when Little John breaks him out of jail.

These tales reveal that Robin Hood was very much part of the national consciousness by the 15th century, but they do little to tell us whether or not he actually lived. For that, we need to look elsewhere, and we'll begin with the era's historical record.

MEDIEVAL MYSTERY

Who was Robin Hood?

ROBERT, EARL OF HUNTINGTON

In the 16th and 17th centuries, Robin Hood got an upgrade. No longer was he a mere yeoman, but a noble aristocrat. According to the playwright Anthony Munday, that aristocrat was Robert, Earl of Huntington, who lived during the reign of Richard I. Unfortunately, most historians believe this theory to be a fabrication.

ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY

The Sloane Manuscripts, housed in the British Museum, contain a passage claiming that the famous outlaw was born in Locksley (probably Yorkshire) in 1160. We have no evidence for this, but the idea that Robin Hood was a Robin of Locksley has proved persuasive to writers and film-makers ever since.

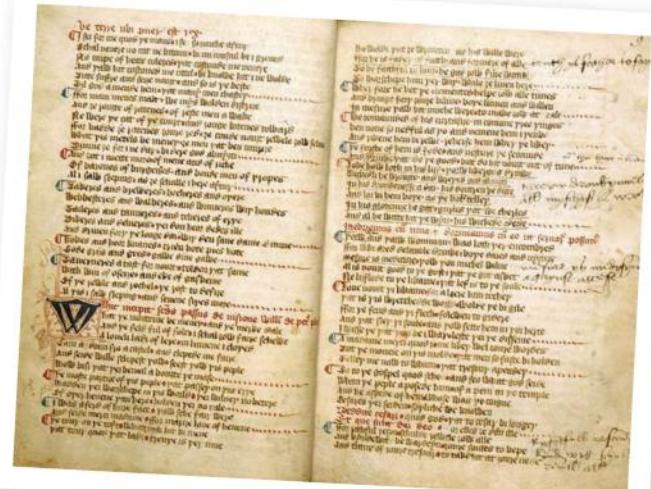
WILLIAM LE FEVRE

Historians attempting to track down a real Robin Hood have long been intrigued by references to one "William Robehod, fugitive" in a Berkshire court document from 1261. Robehod's real name was William le Fevre, and it appears he acquired the nickname because he was part of a criminal gang.

It's now that things get interesting for, in the 13th century alone, there's no shortage of leads to men who could potentially have been Robin. Perhaps the most intriguing of these appears in the King's Remembrancer's Memoranda Roll of Easter 1262, which reports the pardoning of the Prior of Sandleford for seizing without warrant the personal possessions of a fugitive who the court called 'William Robehod'.

This wasn't the first time that the name Robin Hood – or at least something remarkably similar to it – had been read out in an English court. Almost four decades earlier, in 1226, the royal justices held an assize in York in which they slapped a penalty of 32 shillings and sixpence on a 'Robert Hod', who they describe as a fugitive.

Could one of these two outlaws have been the real Robin? Was the Scottish historian John Major, writing in 1521, onto something when he claimed that Robin was active in 1193–94 at the time of John's attempted coup against Richard? Did the Sloane Manuscripts, gathered by the 18th-century physician Hans Sloane, have it right when they claimed that the famous outlaw was



CAMEO APPEARANCE

Robin Hood is mentioned in the 14th-century poem *Piers Plowman*

born in Locksley (probably Yorkshire) in 1160? It's possible. But the cruel truth may be that these men weren't referred to as 'Robehod' or 'Robert Hod' because they *were* Robin Hood, but because – so embedded was the legend in the national psyche – that's just what fugitives were commonly called at the time. The appearance of 'Robehod' and 'Robert Hod' in the records is undoubtedly intriguing, but it proves nothing.

In fact, it has been argued that 'Robin Hood' is merely a contraction of 'Robin o' the Wood', a purely legendary figure whose nickname was first widely used in the 12th century.

BAD KING JOHN

But that doesn't mean that the Robin Hood story is utterly divorced from historical reality. On the contrary, it gives us an invaluable perspective on what life was like in the Middle Ages – and, more specifically, what it was like to live during the reign of the tale's infamous

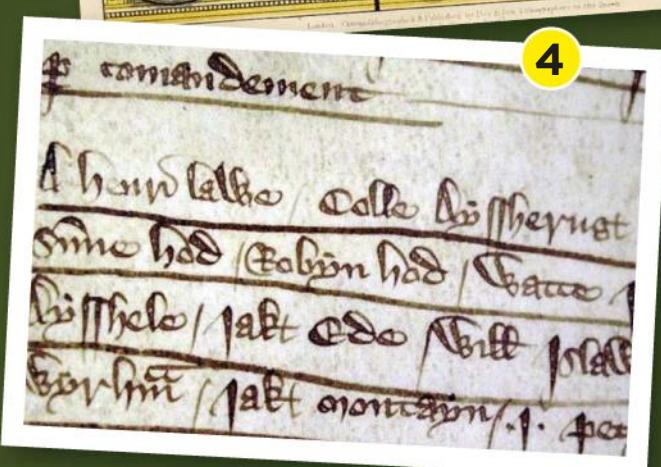
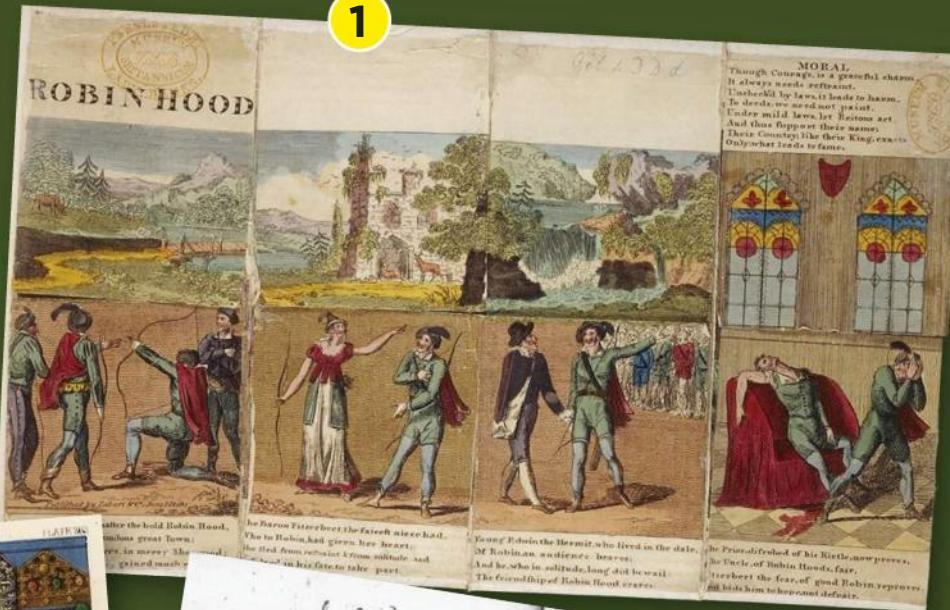
"This wasn't the first time that the name Robin Hood had been read in court"



STEALING FROM THE RICH Hood robs a proud bishop of his gold

LEGEND FOR ALL TIME

Over the centuries, Robin's likeness has appeared on everything from artworks to adverts, as his enduring legend has evolved to mean something fresh. This selection of Hood-related memorabilia illustrates that change...



ROBIN IN PRINT

- Four scenes showing Robin Hood with Little John, Clorinda - his betrothed, young Edwin the Hermit and the Friar, from an 1809 print
- Lithographic plate, featuring a stained glass window depicting the history of Robin Hood from *Masterpieces of Industrial Art*, 1873
- The History of Robin Hood*, a ballad from c1700
- A wage account from 1324, outlining payment to one 'Robyn Hod', porter of King Edward II's chamber
- A British Railways poster for Nottinghamshire, 1948-51

SEEN ON SCREEN

Legendary Robins

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (1938)

► 14 May 1938 is arguably the most important day in the history of the Robin Hood legend, for it was then that Errol Flynn exploded into cinemas in *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. Flynn's swashbuckling Robin perhaps did more than any other to popularise the tale in the United States.



DISNEY'S ROBIN HOOD (1973)

► The '70s found Robin Hood storming the box office again, this time as an anthropomorphic cartoon animal. This Robin Hood (a fox voiced by Brian Bedford) may have lacked Flynn's sex appeal, but that didn't stop this version becoming the most successful Disney animated feature on its first release.



ROBIN AND MARIAN (1976)

► As his association with James Bond petered out, Sean Connery played another all-action British hero, opposite the legendary Audrey Hepburn. Richard Harris (as King Richard I) added another layer of stardust to a film that scored highly among the critics.



ROBIN HOOD: PRINCE OF THIEVES (1991)

► Kevin Costner and Morgan Freeman proved that Robin was alive and well in the 1990s. Costner's depiction of Hood earned him a Golden Raspberry Award for 'Worst Actor' – but that didn't stop *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* becoming the second-highest-grossing film of 1991.

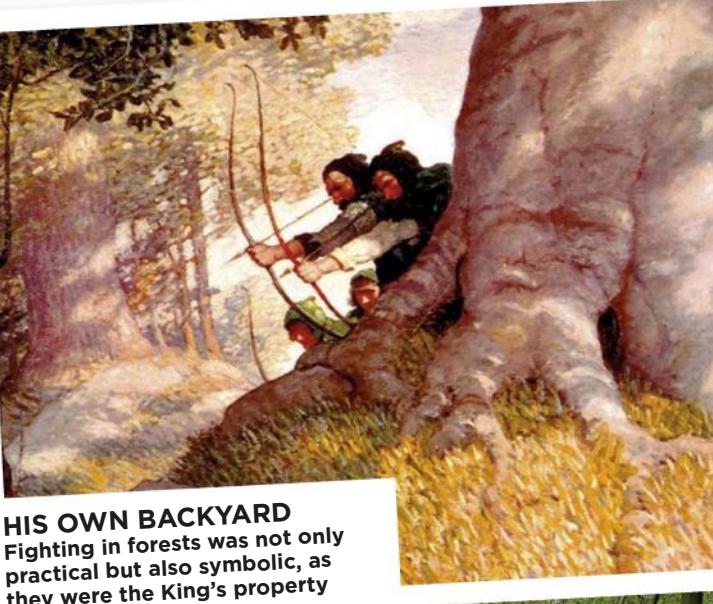


ROBIN HOOD: MEN IN TIGHTS (1993)

► This Mel Brooks-directed spoof sees Robin – played by Cary Elwes – overcoming the Sheriff of Nottingham with a little help from a 'PATRIOT' arrow. Intriguingly, Richard I (played by Patrick Stewart) insists that all toilets in the kingdom be renamed 'Johns'.



AKG IMAGES X1, ALAMY X6, GETTY X2



HIS OWN BACKYARD

Fighting in forests was not only practical but also symbolic, as they were the King's property

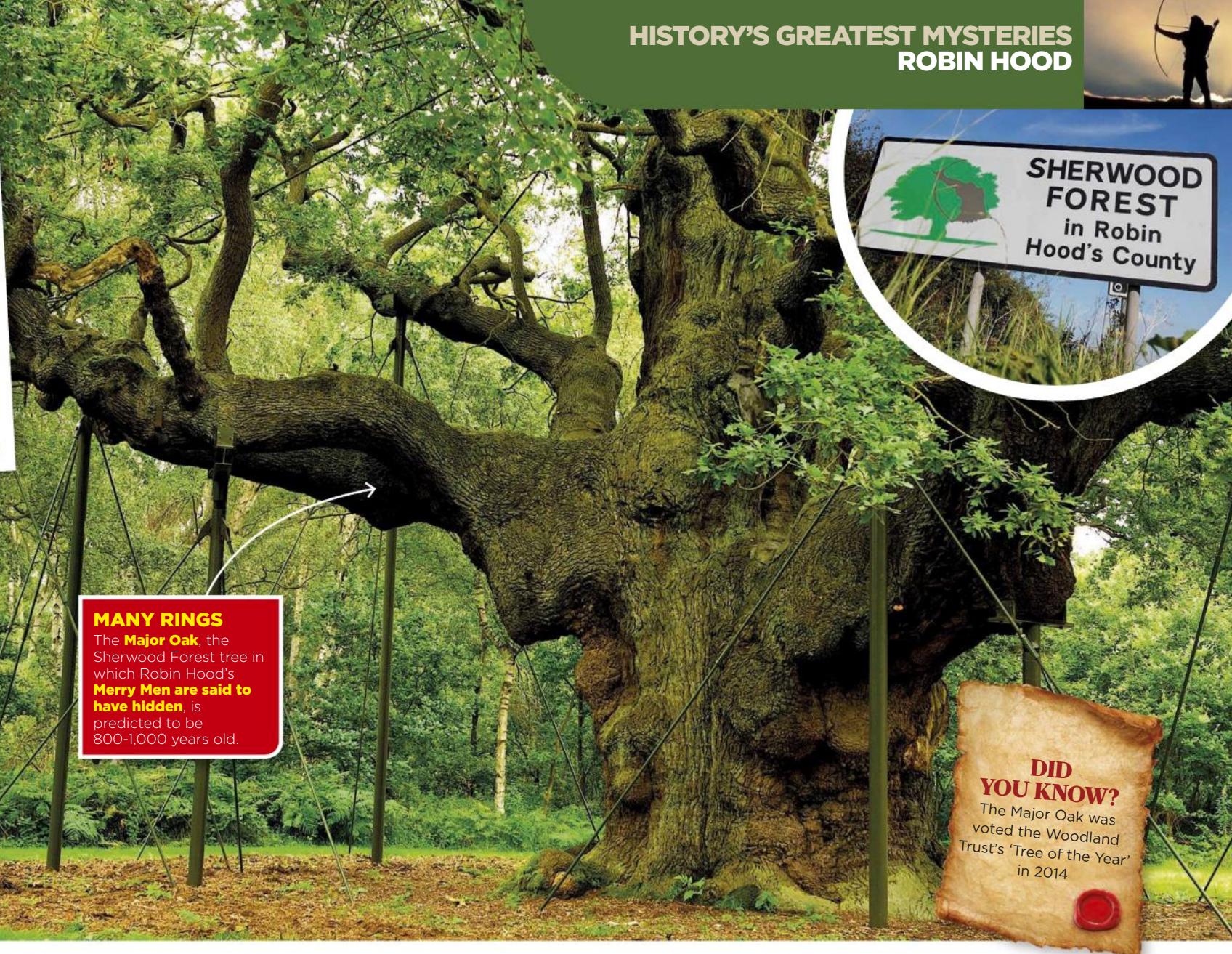
◀ villain, King John. In an age when rulers were hardly averse to acts of cruelty, John (who reigned from 1199 to 1216) took despotism to new lows. He imposed ruinous taxes on his subjects, waged unwinnable wars, and threw his enemies into prison on trumped-up charges (in one infamous act of savagery, he ordered two aristocrats – Maud de Braose and her son William – to be starved to death in a castle dungeon).

John was a vindictive, incompetent, unpopular leader. "Hell itself is made fouler by the presence of King John," was the chronicler Matthew Paris's verdict on him in the 1230s. Yet John did, it seems, achieve something during his hapless reign – and that was to turn the once-reviled figure of the outlaw into a champion of the little man. Under John's father, Henry II, outlaws had been public enemy number one. Now, they were heroes. This backdrop provided fertile territory for the emergence of a figure like Robin Hood.

And where better for Robin to wage his war against an unscrupulous king than from the depths of a forest? Not only was this practical – forests were huge, often wild and easy to hide in – but, to our 13th-century ancestors, highly symbolic. In medieval England, forests were largely the private preserve of the King, subject to draconian laws and, as such, incredibly unpopular. So not only was

TRUE VILLAIN
King John did indeed impose harsh taxes





“Under John’s father, outlaws had been public enemy number one. Now, they were heroes”

hiding in Sherwood a great way for Robin Hood to evade his would-be captors, to early readers of the tale it would have been interpreted as a public act of defiance against the King.

QUESTION OF COUNTY

Whether Robin was a historical character or not, he certainly wasn't the only outlaw operating during King John's reign, and nor was he the most high-profile (not in the 13th century, at least). That accolade has to go to a powerful marcher lord called Fulk FitzWarin. Fulk and John were childhood friends, until the pair had a fight over a game of chess. The future king never forgot the incident and, when the two had grown up, took

Fulk's ancestral lands from him and gave them to a rival, Morys FitzRoger. Fulk promptly murdered FitzRoger and fled into outlawry – an act of defiance that earned him admiration across the land. Could his historical exploits be the template on which the Robin Hood story was based?

Maybe. Maybe not. But even if that was the case, most of the early balladeers don't portray Robin Hood as the kind of person who would have circulated in royal circles as a boy. While Fulk was an aristocrat, the original Robin Hood was probably a member of the yeomanry, an emerging class that sat somewhere between the peasantry – those at the bottom of society's pile, who were

bound to a lord and had to pay a fixed rent for their land – and the nobility. Before turning to outlawry, the early balladeers' Robin Hood may have owned his own land, he may even have been a merchant, but he wouldn't have broken bread with royalty.

Nor would he, necessarily, have been a man of Nottinghamshire. For centuries, two rival counties – Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire – have claimed Robin as their own. The prominence of the evil sheriff in modern versions of the story suggests that the former has come out on top. But not everything about this take on events stacks up. For example, the tradition that Robin Hood and his Merry Men hid out in the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest is compromised by the revelation that the tree would have been a mere sapling during the reign of Bad King John.

Yorkshire's claim cannot, then, be discarded. Numerous ballads from the Middle Ages – *A Gest of Robyn Hode* and *Robin Hood and the Monk* among



them – claim that he was born in South Yorkshire, and that he operated out of Barnsdale Forest in that same county. And one of the most enduring traditions associated with the Robin Hood story suggests that he died there too. Robin, it's claimed, was buried in the grounds of Kirklees Priory in West Yorkshire after being bled to death by a vindictive abbess. Realising that his demise was imminent, Robin fired his final arrow from the gatehouse window, entreating Little John to bury him exactly where the arrow fell.

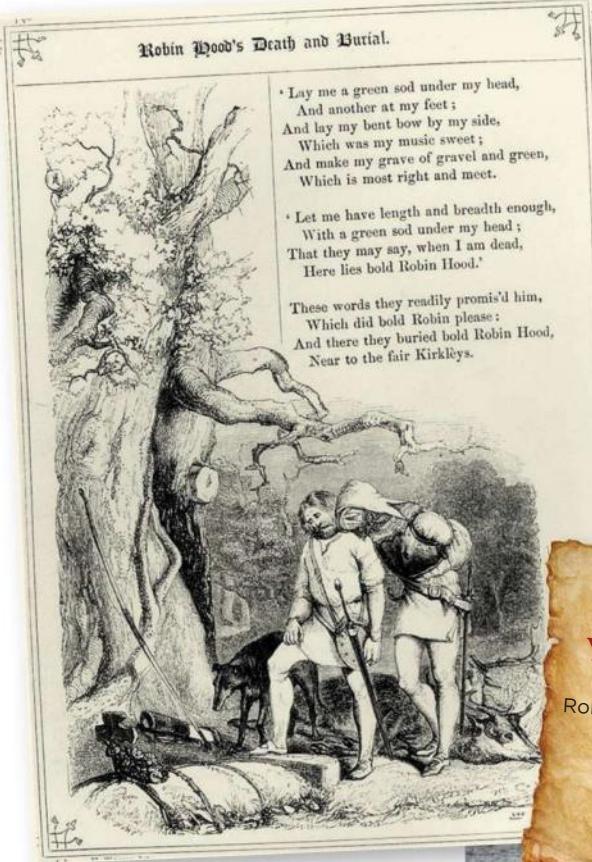
A drawing made by the antiquarian Nathaniel Johnston in 1665 shows a slab decorated with a cross, and the inscription "Here lie Roberd Hude, Willm Goldburgh, Thoms..." carved around the edge – at the spot where the outlaw is said to be buried. Yet Sir Samuel Armitage, investigating the site in the 18th century, found no evidence for a grave. He therefore concluded that the memorial must have been "brought

from some other place, and by vulgar tradition ascribed to Robin Hood".

So neither Nottinghamshire nor Yorkshire have staked an undeniable claim to being home to the Robin Hood legend. All we can say with at least a degree of confidence is that he was a man of the north.

Whichever county gave us Robin Hood, there's little doubt that, by the late Middle Ages, men and women across England had adopted him as their own. Visit any May Day celebration across the land from at least the 15th century and there's a good chance you'd have been greeted by the sight of revellers dressed

"The elusive outlaw from the mists of medieval England has become a truly global phenomenon"



in Lincoln green participating in the hugely popular 'Robin Hood games'.

And this evidently wasn't solely the preserve of the great unwashed. The chronicler Edward Hall tells us that in 1510, to mark the year's May Day celebrations, the young Henry VIII entered Queen Catherine of Aragon's chamber with 11 of his nobles, "every one of them with his bowe and arrowes, and a sworde and a bucklar, like outlawes, or Robyn Hodes men".

Even the great playwright William Shakespeare fell under Robin's spell, writing him into two of his plays – *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and *As You Like It* (in the latter we're told that a duke-turned-exile is living "like the old Robin Hood of England").

LOOKING FORWARD

Around the start of the 16th century, John Major wrote: "I conceive, there flourished those most famous robbers, Robin Hood and Little John, who lay in wait in the woods but spoiled of their goods those only who were wealthy. They took the life of no man unless he either attacked them or offered resistance in defence of their property." Here, in two short sentences, Major got to the nub of why Robin Hood remained so enduringly popular among his countrymen – from Shakespeare to inebriated May Day revellers. To them, he was the heroic everyman cocking

a snook at authority; the comforting proof that absolute, unbridled power doesn't always win the day.

Half a millennium after Major breathed his last – and having conquered America in the 19th century, courtesy of Howard Pyle's wildly successful children's book, *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood* – the elusive outlaw from the mists of medieval England has become a truly global phenomenon. It seems that the idea of a triumphant underdog still has cache, even in the digital age.

Today, Hood inspires Hollywood blockbusters (Russell Crowe is the latest A-lister to play him, in a Ridley Scott-directed 2010 production), provides the hero for popular video games, and has even given his name to a tax system that aims to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor.

We may never know whether he was himself rich or poor, where he lived and died – in fact, whether he lived at all. But there's no doubting one thing, and that's that Robin Hood is the irresistible centrepiece of one of the most enduring and enchanting legends of them all. ◎



MODERN ICON

The **Robin Hood tax** is a proposed tax on transactions like stocks, bonds and foreign currencies that will generate cash to **fight poverty and climate change**.

GET HOOKED

READ

A Brief History of Robin Hood (Running Press 2010) by Nigel Cawthorne explores the truth behind the myths. *Robin Hood* (Thames & Hudson, 2011) assesses the evidence for his existence, after 30 years of research by JC Holt.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Robin Hood a real man, or simply a figment of medieval imagination – or a bit of both? email: editor@historyrevealed.com

OF MONSTERS AND MEN

Britain's greatest folk tales



BRUTUS OF TROY

▲ For a list of great British legends, it's probably best to start with the man who (so they say) founded Britain. That man was Brutus – a Roman consul and descendant of the great Trojan hero Aeneas – who, we're told, brought an army ashore, fought off the natives and became the first king of Britain.



KING ARTHUR

▲ Full of tales of wizards, the underworld and diabolical beasts, it's hardly surprising that the story of King Arthur is often condemned as pure make-believe. Yet there may be a kernel of truth behind the fantasy. Could the figure of Arthur be based upon a historical British warlord, leading the fight against marauding Anglo-Saxons?



LOCH NESS MONSTER

▲ The legend of Nessie first emerged from the murky waters of Loch Ness in AD 565, when St Columba described a beast in the water. Yet it really took flight in the mid-20th century when a series of 'sightings' led to full-scale scientific investigations. To date, no monster has ever been found.



DICK WHITTINGTON

▲ Dick Whittington, the legend, rose from the depths of poverty to the heights of polite society in medieval London, thanks to the ratting ability of his cat. Yet the myth was based on a real man, Richard Whittington, who was lord mayor of London no less than four times.



ROBERT BRUCE AND THE SPIDER

▲ Robert Bruce was at his lowest ebb. On the run from the English, he took refuge in a cave where he was inspired to lead a famous fightback after watching a spider try, and try again, to spin a web. The spider might be the stuff of legend, but it is synonymous with one of the greatest heroes in Scottish history.

GRAPHIC HISTORY

A visual guide to the past

AD 565 MONSTER SEEN AT LOCH NESS

Since August AD 565, Loch Ness has been providing us with hoaxes, unexplained sightings and wild theories...



TIMELINE

The myth is over a millennium old, but only really took off in the 20th century

August AD 565

The traditional date given for the **first sighting of Nessie**. On this day St Columba, a Christian monk, reports an encounter with a monster in the lake.

July 1933

Mr and Mrs Spicer see the "Loch Ness beast" in the road. Interest in the old legend is revived.

December 1933

A Marmaduke Wetherell finds **huge footprints** near the loch's shore. They are proved to have been made with a **dried hippo foot**.

April 1934

A London doctor takes the famous 'surgeon's photo' of the monster's head and neck, which was later found to be a hoax.

July 1951

Forestry Commission worker Lachlan Stuart pictures **three humps rising** from beneath the surface.

THE THEORIES

DO YOU THINK SHE SAW US?



Theory: the monster is a marine reptile from the Jurassic period, called a plesiosaur
For: it's a similar size and shape to many Nessie sightings and images

Against: plesiosaurs live in warm water. Plus, they're extinct
First raised: 1933
Likelihood: ●○○○○

SLIPPERY CUSTOMER



Theory: a giant eel lurks in the depths of the loch
For: standard-sized eels do live in Loch Ness
Against: the eel's sideways swimming motion contradicts most sightings
First raised: 1930s
Likelihood: ●○○○○

NESSIE THE ELEPHANT



Theory: a small herd of elephants (or an individual) lives near the loch
For: a swimming elephant could be confused for the neck and shoulders of something much larger
Against: elephants would be seen, and heard, on land
First raised: 1979
Likelihood: ●○○○○

MONSTER MONEY

Real or not, she's certainly a cash cow...



There have been 9 different scientific searches, including the 1987 Operation Deep Scan, which spent an estimated total of £1 MILLION looking for Nessie.

CRYPTIDS AROUND THE WORLD

Nessie is one of the oldest unidentified creatures on Earth – here are a few of her younger, distant cousins

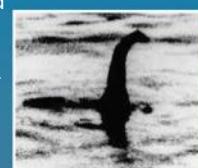


1 CHUPACABRA

What: a reptile-like creature, with alien-shaped eyes and a taste for livestock
Where: North, Central and South America
First reported: 1990s
Danger rating: ●●●○○

2 LAKE TIANCHI MONSTERS

What: large seal-like, finned creatures with a history of aggression
Where: Heaven Lake, North Korea-China border
First reported: 1903
Danger rating: ●●●○○





July 1955

Bank Manager Peter McNab snaps a large **body moving through the water** – the image is later revealed to be doctored.

April 1960

Aeronautical Engineer Tim Dinsdale **records film** of a humped object moving through the loch's water.

August 1972

Dr Robert Rines of the Academy of Applied Science uses an underwater imaging device and records a **flipper-like shape** beneath the surface.

October 1972

Monster hunter Frank Searle takes many images of unidentified bodies, most of which are found to be **tree trunks**.

May 1977

Anthony Shiels, a showman, 'wizard' and **psychic entertainer** photographs the head of a monster – it is widely discredited.

October 1987

Operation Deepscan – the largest and most scientific search of Loch Ness – begins. Sonar **monitors record mystery contacts**, which are yet to be explained.

July 2003

The BBC sponsors a search for Nessie, using **600 sonar beams and satellites**, but to no avail.

May 2007

Labratory Technician Gordon Holmes films a **"Jet-black thing, about 45-feet long"** moving through the water.

Nessie brings in some **£25 MILLION** every year, with over **1 MILLION** tourists visiting the glen.



In the thirties, circus owner Bertram Mills offered up **£20,000** for anyone who could deliver the monster to him alive.



Nessie is a big hitter at the box office, cropping up in some **15 movies**. She took her first lead role, in *Secret of the Loch*, directed by Milton Rosmer, **just a year after the Spicers' sighting**.

NESSIE SPOTTERS

In July 2013, Hollywood actor **Charlie Sheen** started searching for Nessie, armed with 1 makeshift fishing rod, 1 leg of lamb, and 1 bottle of whisky.

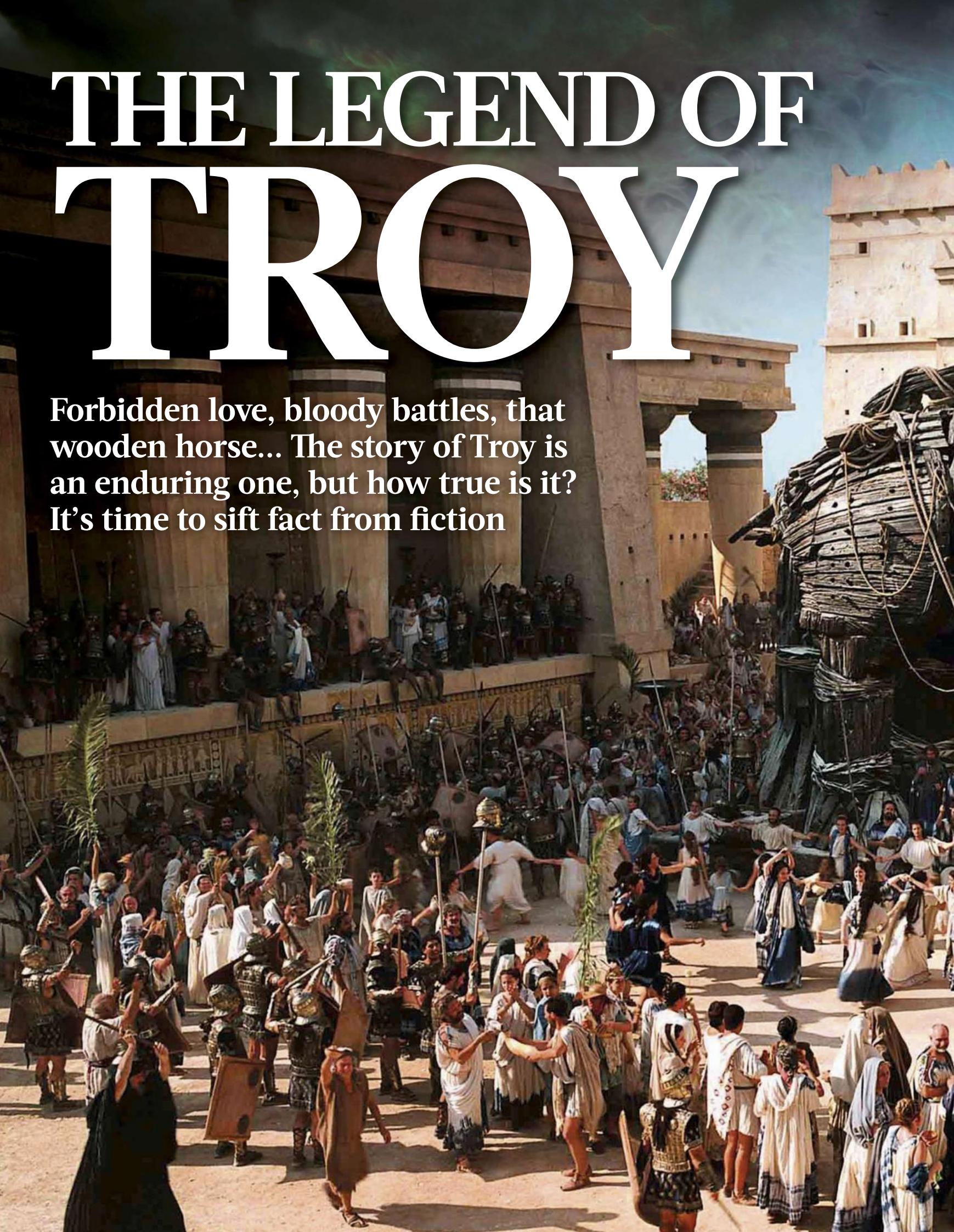


According to the **Official Register of Sightings of the Loch Ness Monster**, there have been

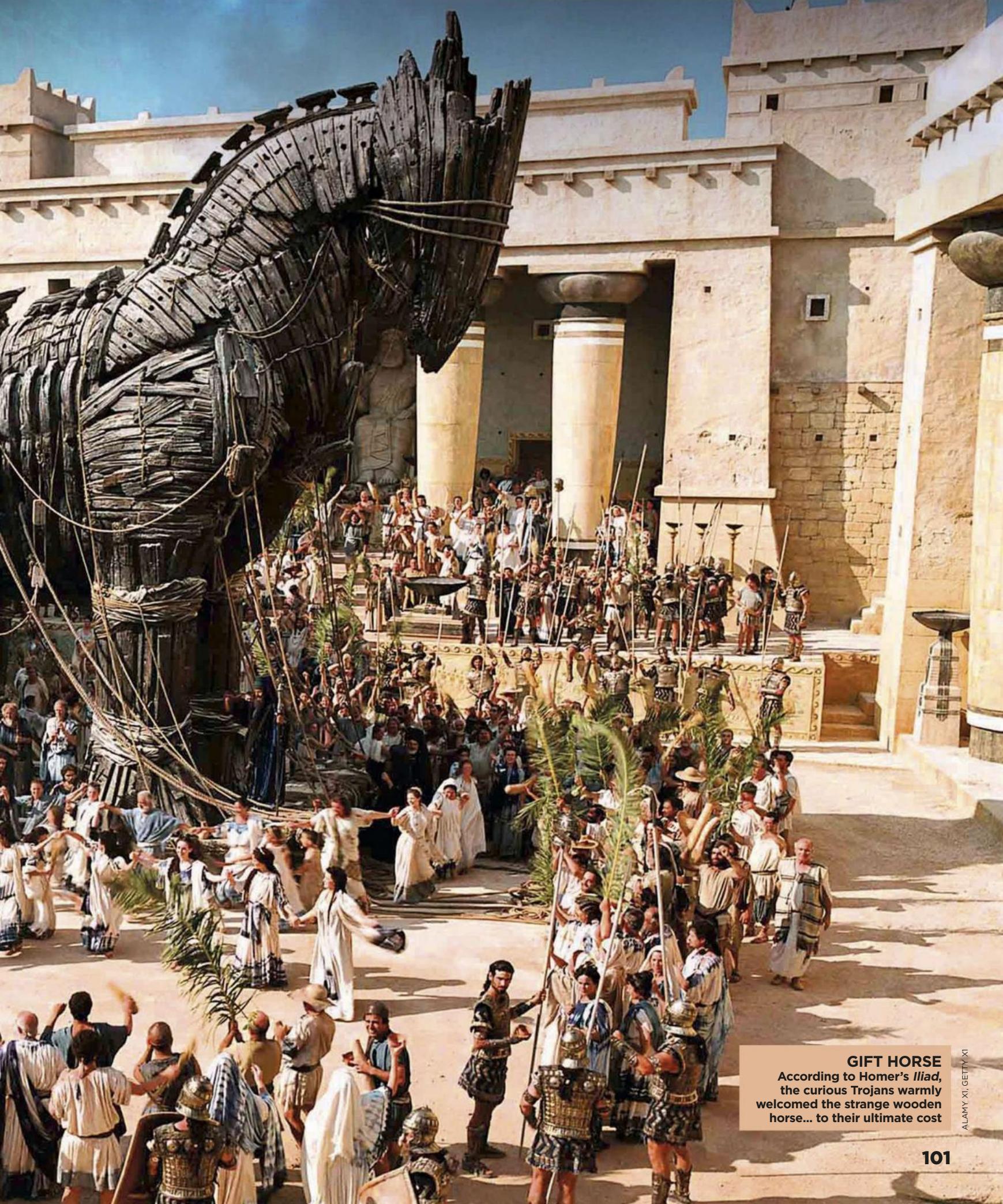


1,041 separate glimpses of the beast.

THE LEGEND OF TROY



Forbidden love, bloody battles, that wooden horse... The story of Troy is an enduring one, but how true is it? It's time to sift fact from fiction



GIFT HORSE

According to Homer's *Iliad*,
the curious Trojans warmly
welcomed the strange wooden
horse... to their ultimate cost

ALAMY XI GETTY XI

HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

THE LEGEND OF TROY

You could say that one of the biggest box office smashes of the past 15 years was three millennia in the making. When *Troy* was released in 2004, thousands of movie-lovers across the globe thrilled to the film's high-octane battle sequences, expansive scenery and, no doubt, the sight of Brad Pitt, Eric Bana and Orlando Bloom running around without many clothes on.

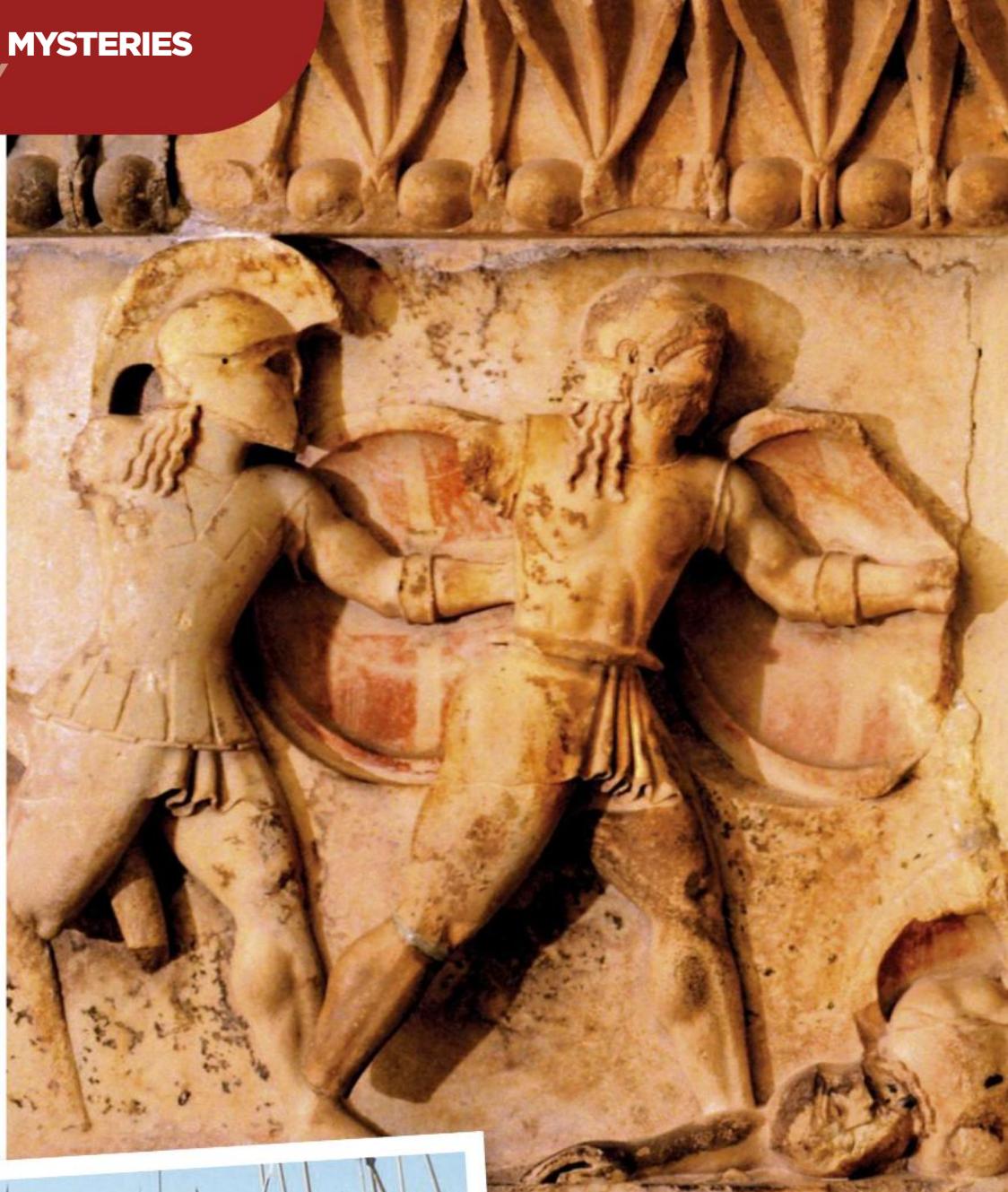
There is, of course, nothing new in this. For the story of the Trojan Wars has been thrilling audiences for almost 3,000 years, ever since it was first brought to life by a shadowy Greek poet called Homer in his epic poem *The Iliad*.

We don't know much about Homer. We can't be sure when he lived, though many historians place him in the eighth century BC. Some have even questioned whether a man named Homer lived at all. But there's one thing that we do know for sure. And that's that the tale he popularised all those years ago has proved one of the most irresistible in human history.

"The whole story of the Trojan War is a compelling one for the ages," declared the renowned archaeologist Eric H Cline. "It's love and war, it's greed, it's desire. You name it, it has elements that compel the human psyche, and have for millennia."

This amazing story begins when a Trojan prince, Paris, seduces Helen, the beautiful wife of King Menelaus, and spirits her back to Troy. Menelaus is, unsurprisingly, none too pleased at this turn of events and is hellbent on winning Helen back. So, with the help of his brother Agamemnon, the mighty king of Mycenae, Menelaus assembles a fleet of more than

MOVIESTILLS X1, ALAMY X2, GETTY X2



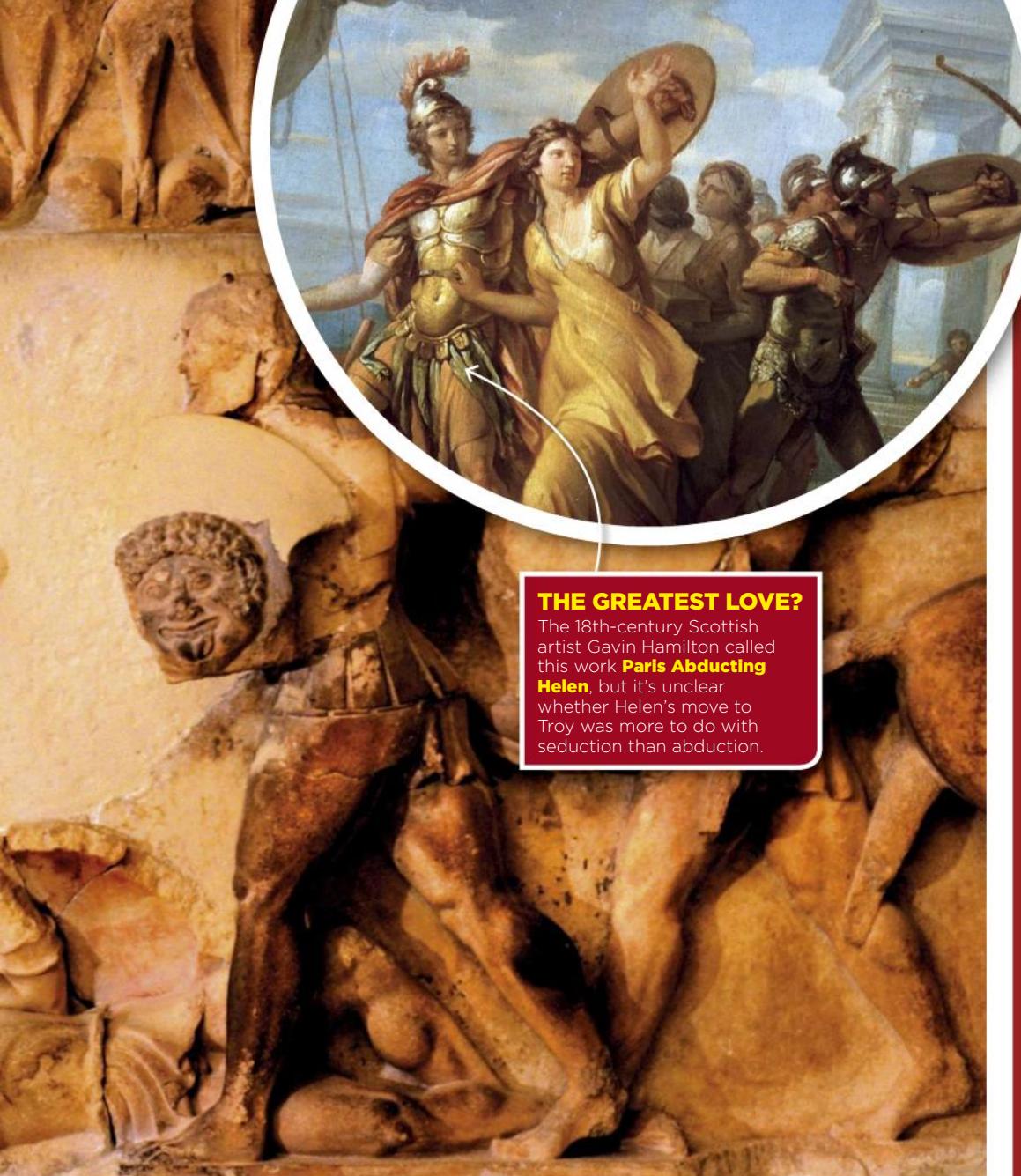
FULL METAL JACKET

LEFT: Eric Bana goes into battle as the Trojan warrior Hector in the 2004 film *Troy*
MAIN: The Trojan War, as depicted on a frieze that forms part of the Siphnian Treasury at Delphi in Greece

1,000 Greek ships to set sail for Troy and place it under siege.

In this epic clash of kingdoms, Menelaus seemingly holds all the cards: the combined might of much of the Greek world, control of the seas and an unquenchable thirst for revenge. He can also call upon the services of the world's greatest warrior, Achilles, who is utterly invincible, we're told – apart from his famously vulnerable heel.

But, led by Hector, their own champion warrior, the Trojans repel everything the Greeks can throw at them. After nine long, blood-splattered years – and with Hector and Achilles both dead – the two sides have fought themselves to a standstill. For the Greeks, the game appears to be up.



THE GREATEST LOVE?

The 18th-century Scottish artist Gavin Hamilton called this work **Paris Abducting Helen**, but it's unclear whether Helen's move to Troy was more to do with seduction than abduction.

But this is a story with a sting in its tail. The Greek warrior Odysseus conceives a scheme to build a giant, hollow wooden horse and conceal Greek warriors within it. The Greeks leave the horse outside the walls of Troy, before pretending to abandon their siege and sail homeward.

HIDDEN AGENDA

The rest, you might say, is history. The curious Trojans can't resist the temptation to wheel the horse into their city – and hardly have time to draw breath before paying a catastrophic price. In the dead of night, the Greeks steal out of the horse and massacre the Trojans in their beds. The city's brave resistance ends in annihilation.

So ends the tale of the Trojan War. But the story of the conflict's massive impact on the Western world was only just beginning. It first seeped into Greek popular culture, before heading west towards Rome. Fast-forward a few hundred years from the time of Homer and you have one of the great Roman poets,

Virgil, putting his own spin on *The Iliad*. In *The Aeneid*, Virgil relates how a group of Trojans, led by the hero Aeneas, leave the rubble of their city and found the settlement at the heart of the greatest empire the world has ever seen: Rome.

With Virgil's help, the Trojan War was firmly cemented into the bedrock of Western culture – and not as a piece of fantasy, but as a true story. The normally critical fifth-century BC Athenian historian Thucydides may have quibbled over the number of boats that

the Greeks sent to Troy, but he still believed the events were founded in fact. For the next 2,000 years or so, it seemed that most people agreed with him.

All that, though, changed during the Enlightenment, when a new brand of sceptical thinkers began to question everything previous generations had unquestioningly accepted. And what did these men make of a tale in which vengeful gods fight proxy wars through

45

The estimated number of suitors attempting to court Helen before her marriage to King Menelaus

METRE AND MYSTERY

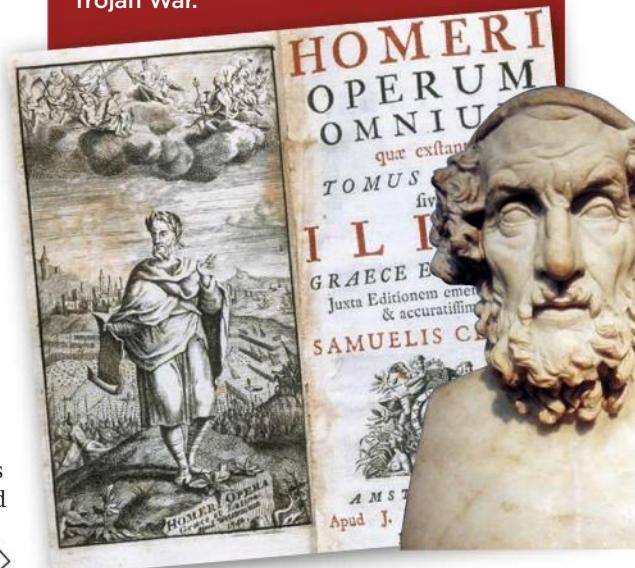
THE ILIAD

As generations of schoolchildren will recall, the work of literature responsible for catapulting the story of the Trojan War into the world's collective imagination is *The Iliad*. This epic Greek poem is one of the most celebrated in all of history, but its origins are shrouded in mystery.

At the centre of the riddle lies the poet to whom the book has traditionally been ascribed – Homer. Was he blind? Was *The Iliad* the product of his imagination, or was he recording an age-old story that had been passed down the centuries through word of mouth? Was there not one Homer, but several, composing the tale in collaboration?

We will never know. But what we can be fairly certain of is that *The Iliad* was composed not at the time of the events that it describes (in the late Bronze Age), but somewhere between 750 and 650 BC. The feudal social structures that Homer describes bear all the hallmarks of that later period, while some of the weapons his heroes use hadn't reached Greece by the late Bronze Age.

For all the uncertainty swirling around *The Iliad*, there's no obscuring its massive impact on Western – and, more specifically, British – literature. By the 12th century AD, the poem had permeated British culture to such an extent that, in his history of the kings of Britain, Geoffrey of Monmouth claimed that the island was founded by Brutus, descendant of the Trojan hero Aeneas. An even bigger compliment came when perhaps the greatest writer of them all, William Shakespeare, built his play *Troilus and Cressida* around a tragic love affair played out against a backdrop of the Trojan War.





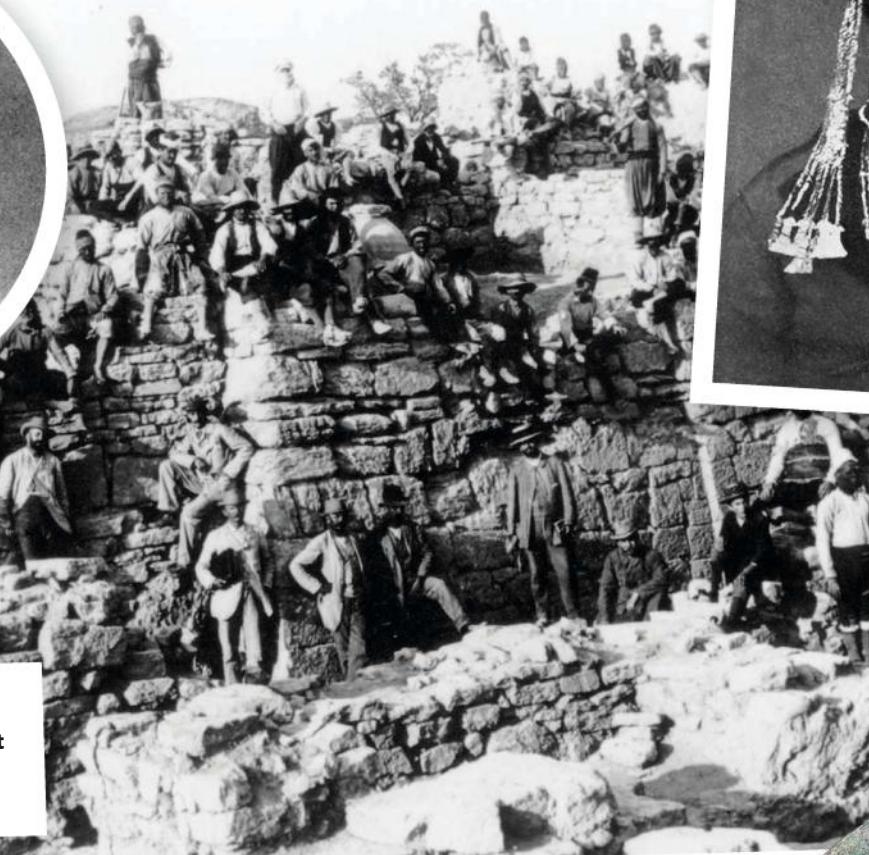
HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

THE LEGEND OF TROY



THE OBSESSIVE

ABOVE: The archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, who spent much cash investigating Troy
MAIN: Schliemann's extensive team of excavators takes a rest



TREASURE HAUL

ABOVE: Sophie Schliemann, wife of Heinrich, models the excavated jewellery
RIGHT: Further artefacts recovered from the supposed location of Troy

human agents, and snakes are turned to stone? They dismissed it as bunkum – a view neatly summed up by the French mathematician Blaise Pascal when, in the 17th century, he declared: "Homer wrote a romance, for nobody supposes that Troy and Agamemnon existed any more than the apples of the Hesperides. He had no intention to write history, but only to amuse us."

So the tide had turned. Received opinion now had it that the Trojan War was nothing more than make-believe. Luckily, the entrepreneur-turned-archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann wasn't the kind of man to swim with the tide. As a boy growing up in early 19th-century Germany, he had seen a picture of Troy in flames in a book his father had given him. It was an image that stuck. Schliemann was convinced that the Trojan War was a historical fact and, by the middle of the century, having made his fortune, he was hellbent on proving it.

The Greek literary tradition suggested that Troy, if it ever existed, was located on the north-east coast of Anatolia (home to modern-day Turkey) and that the conflict Homer had described took place at the end of the Bronze Age, perhaps in the 12th or 13th centuries BC. This wasn't much for Schliemann to work with but, as luck would have it, the English

15,693

The number of lines in *The Iliad*, Homer's epic – and still resonant – poem about the siege of Troy

archaeologist Frank Calvert had just begun digging at a place called Hisarlik on that north-east coast. Could this be the location of Homer's Troy? Schliemann wasn't the kind of man to hang around to find out. Soon, he was blasting into the earth.

What Schliemann found 15 metres below the surface was truly astonishing: a palace and a gate with

still when it was revealed that Schliemann's citadel was far smaller than the one described by Homer, and that the jewels were fashioned 1,000 years after the late Bronze Age.

That's not to say that Schliemann's dig was a high-profile, expensive waste of time. More than a century after he breathed his last, few doubt that the citadel that he was so instrumental in uncovering was ancient Troy – it's just not the version of Troy that Homer brought to life.

"Over the past 150 years, finding a version of Troy that fits Homer's very specific criteria has eluded almost every archaeologist"

a road running through it large enough to accommodate two chariots. Schliemann also uncovered evidence of a sophisticated culture, including fantastic gold diadems and necklaces. The German suggested that he'd found the ancient citadel of Troy, and that the jewels had been worn by the woman at the heart of the famous conflict, Helen.

The rest of the world remained sceptical. The doubters would become even more suspicious

And, over the past 150 years, that has been the chief challenge facing each and every archaeologist who has embarked on a quest to solve the riddle of the Trojan War. Excavations at Hisarlik have revealed numerous layers of construction, representing different stages of the site's inhabitation for thousands of years from around 3,000 BC. It's been finding one that fits Homer's very specific criteria that's eluded them.



In 1893, Schliemann's former assistant, Wilhelm Dörpfeld, excavated a citadel with massive walls, high towers and great gates. This citadel was from the late Bronze Age, a time that fitted the legend. But Dörpfeld's Troy couldn't have withstood a decade-long siege. It was big, but not big enough.

GOING UNDERGROUND

The trail went cold until yet another German, Manfred Korfmann, arrived in north-east Turkey in the 1980s. Accompanied by an international team of experts and armed with state-of-the-art magnetic scanning equipment capable of revealing buried walls and streets, he had at his disposal resources that Schliemann and Dörpfeld could only have dreamed of. And it was soon to pay dividends.

Korfmann's scans revealed a ditch cut into the rock surrounding the citadel which, he believed, may have been designed to repel chariots. It had the right age profile and, crucially, was large enough to protect a substantial city, one with a population of between 4,000 and 8,000 people. "People who think there was a Homeric Troy – a city of substantial size and population – will be happy with this result," he declared.

Just as exciting was what else Korfmann found at the site: burned remains, a half-buried girl, arrowheads and sling pellets in heaps. These had all the hallmarks of a city abandoned in defeat – and in a hurry.

THE GREEK POWERHOUSE MYCENAE: SCOURGE OF TROY

In Homer's telling of the Trojan War, Troy has the misfortune of being attacked not by a single Greek city-state but by a conglomeration of armies drawn from across the region.

For all that, one particular city seems to have played an especially prominent role in the conflict – and that's Mycenae, led by the formidable Agamemnon. As the brother of Menelaus, Helen of Troy's jilted husband, it's Agamemnon who directs the combined Greek forces in their assault on Troy.

In this respect, there's every chance that Homer's fiction was reflecting fact: Mycenae was *the* dominant power in southern Greece at the time of the historical Trojan War, and one with the means to wage war on a massive scale.

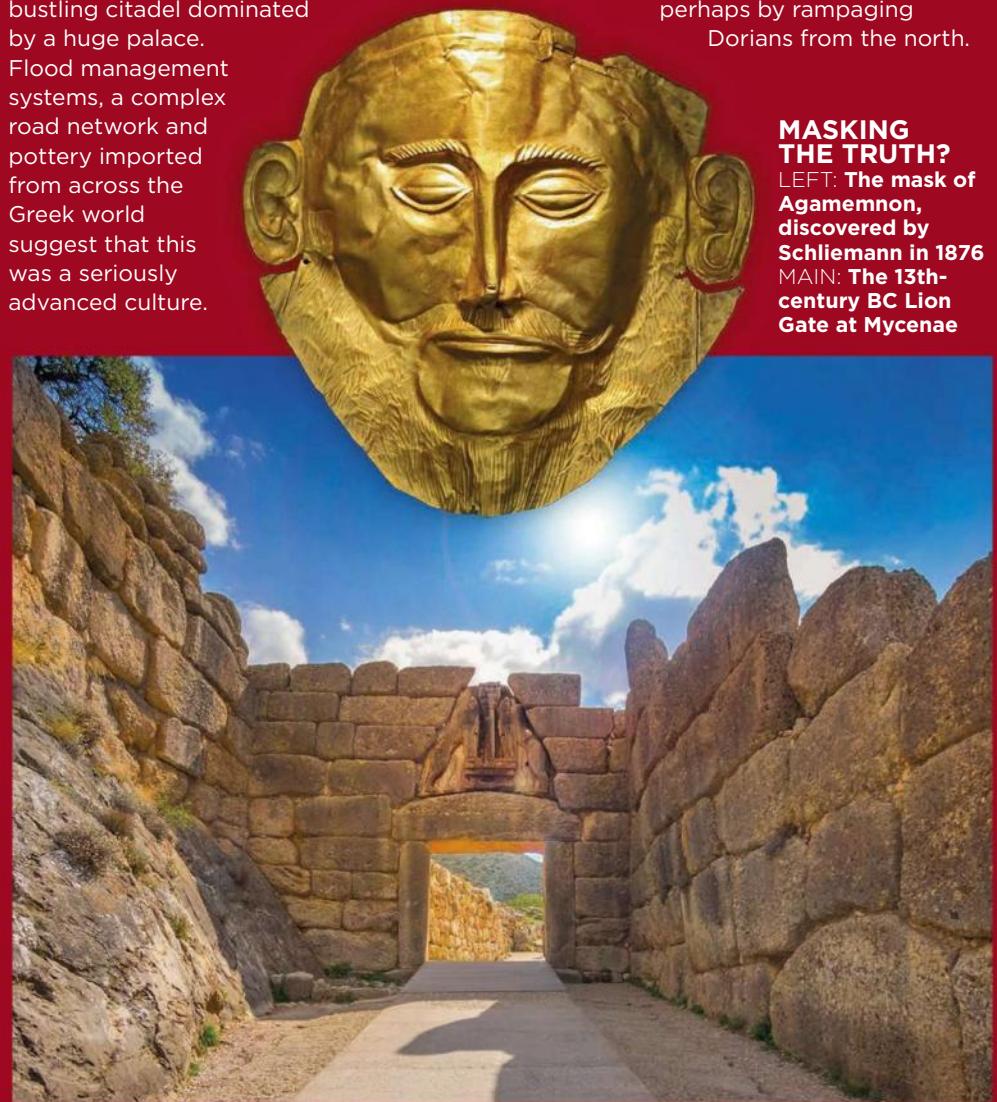
Excavations at the site of Mycenae – about 95 miles south-west of Athens – have revealed evidence of a bustling citadel dominated by a huge palace. Flood management systems, a complex road network and pottery imported from across the Greek world suggest that this was a seriously advanced culture.

But perhaps more revealing still is what archaeologists have found in the graves of Mycenae's rulers: exquisitely decorated armour, accompanied by as many as 50 swords. This was a warrior culture, one that – during the height of its power (1400-1100 BC) – launched raids against Egypt and the Hittites of Anatolia, while colonising everywhere from Crete to parts of mainland Italy.

It may also have been a culture with a very pressing motive to attack Troy. Around the time of the Trojan War, the Mycenaeans undertook a massive building project in their city, almost doubling the size of its fortified area. Could they have assaulted wealthy Troy in order to help fund the building work?

Whatever their motives, the Mycenaeans were to reap what they sowed, for – around 1100 BC – their citadel was itself destroyed, perhaps by rampaging Doriens from the north.

MASKING THE TRUTH?
LEFT: The mask of Agamemnon, discovered by Schliemann in 1876
MAIN: The 13th-century BC Lion Gate at Mycenae





HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

THE LEGEND OF TROY



FIGHT TO THE DEATH

A scene from *The Iliad* is recreated in this 19th-century engraving in the style of Greek vase painting

◀ Korfmann had maybe, just maybe, found the holy grail of archaeology – the remnants of Homer's Troy. But to paint a picture of what might be the real story of the Trojan War, this was not enough. Archaeologists have had to look elsewhere, at other sources.

Of all these sources, an ancient collection of clay tablets discovered in a place called Hattusa – the power base of the Hittite empire – have proved the most revealing. The Hittites were the dominant force in central Anatolia for much of the second millennium BC, ruling all the land between the Aegean Sea in the west and the river Euphrates in the east. Luckily for us, they could write as well as fight, and the tablets on which they recorded the major events of the time give us a fascinating insight into the late Bronze Age world.

THE LONG GAME

The tablets repeatedly refer to a conflict between the Hittites and a rival power that the tablets call the "Ahhiyawans" over a location called "Wilusa" around 1250 BC. Archaeologists are fairly certain that the Ahhiyawans were the Greeks – and that Wilusa was the Hittite name for Troy. But, if the tablets are correct, this war wasn't fought and won in a decade – it appeared to drag on for perhaps as long as 200 years.

If so, why? What led the Greeks to expend men and resources waging war against a city on the Anatolian coast for such a vast amount of time – especially if it brought them into direct confrontation with the Hittites? The answer could come down to one word: greed.

Sitting on the edge of the Dardanelles – a vital sea route linking Europe with Asia – Troy could hardly have occupied a more strategically important location. And this location would have given it access to highly prized goods shipped in from across the known world (as the nearby discovery of a Bronze Age shipwreck, packed with the finest products that money could buy, suggests). This would have brought Troy great wealth, but it would

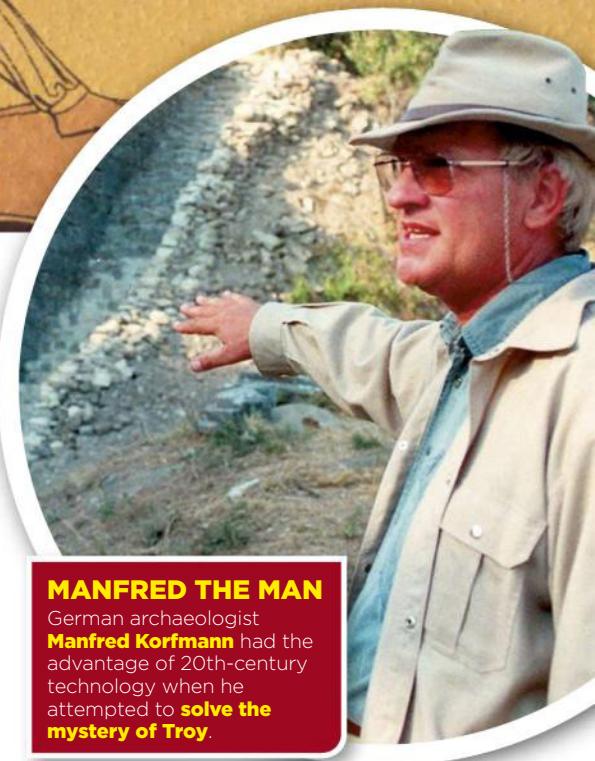
have also made the city rich pickings for the area's superpowers.

Excavations have revealed that southern Greece was dominated by the military stronghold of Mycenae, populated by a people with a proud warrior culture. Perhaps they found the temptation to plunder Troy for its treasures too much to resist.

So could Homer have taken a 200-year clash



FIRST-HAND EVIDENCE
Hittite tablets have proved an invaluable record of the second millennium BC



MANFRED THE MAN

German archaeologist **Manfred Korfmann** had the advantage of 20th-century technology when he attempted to **solve the mystery of Troy**.

over wealth and power – adding a classic love story, a sprinkling of divine squabbling and superhuman martial feats to taste – and distilled it into a 10-year siege?

We'll probably never know for sure. But whatever it was that moved this obscure Greek writer to regale the world with his tale, we can be sure of one thing: the results were spectacular. ◉

GET HOOKED

BOOKS

Aside from reading (or re-reading) *The Iliad*, take a look at Michael Wood's *In Search Of The Trojan War* or *Helen Of Troy: Goddess, Princess, Whore* by Bettany Hughes

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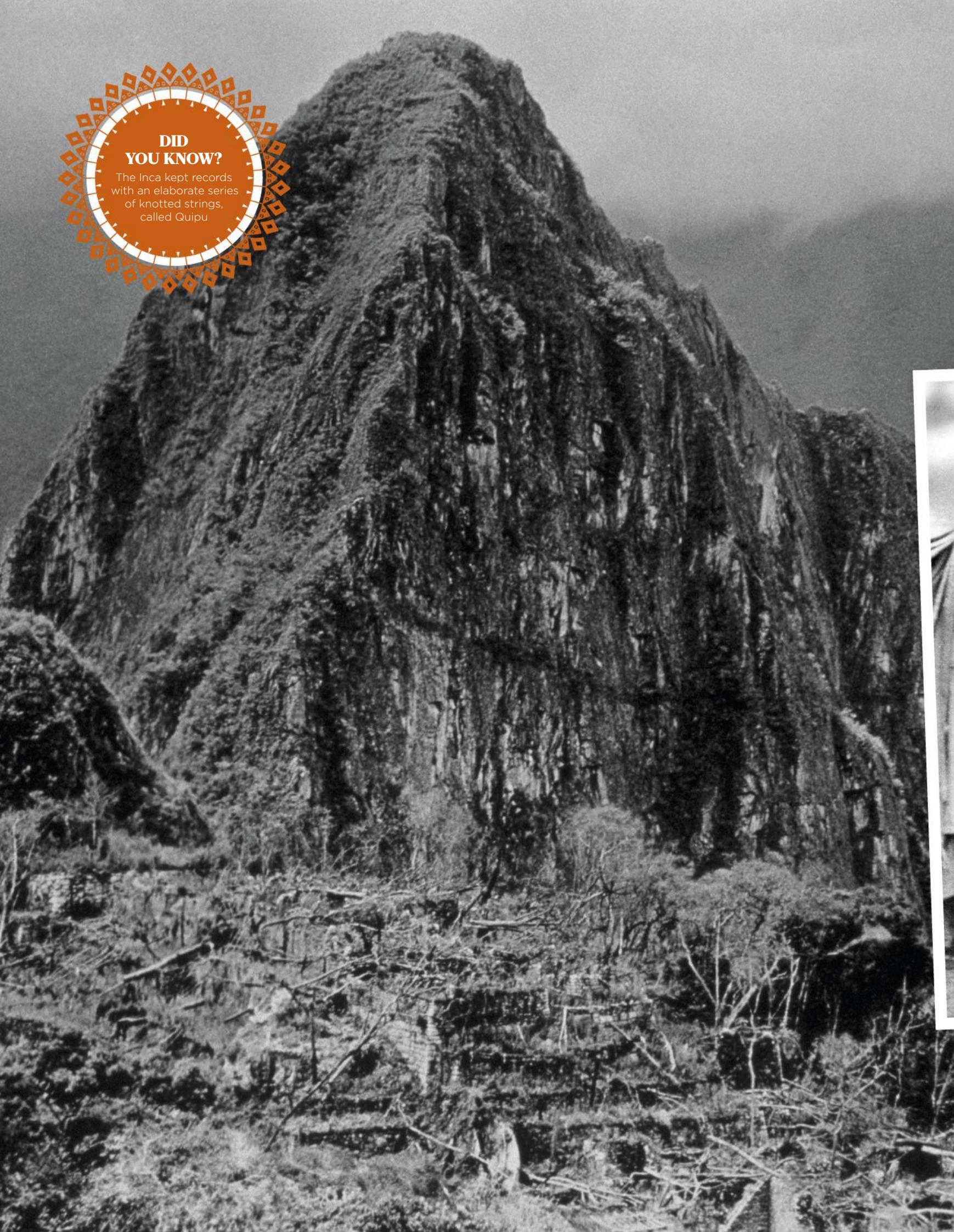
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DID
YOU KNOW?

The Inca kept records
with an elaborate series
of knotted strings,
called Quipu



THE CITY IN THE SKY



REAL INDIANA JONES
After studying history at Yale, Hiram Bingham III was able to pursue his dream – finding the lost city of Vilcabamba

The Inca stronghold of Machu Picchu lay abandoned for over 350 years, until a whip-cracking archaeologist stumbled across it

Bingham had been scrambling ever upwards – often on hands and knees – for hours now. His legs ached, his clothes were damp with sweat, and his lungs struggled to take in the increasingly thin mountain air. And for what? A vague promise from a local man called Melchor Arteaga of Inca ruins at the top of a nearby precipice. For all Bingham knew, Arteaga could have been sending him on a wild – and exhausting – goose chase.

But then Bingham's weary legs felt a surge of energy. For he and his guides suddenly came across what he later described as “an unexpected sight, a great flight of beautifully constructed stone terraces, perhaps a hundred of them, each hundreds of feet long and ten feet high”. Then, “suddenly I found myself confronted with the walls of ruined houses built of the finest quality of Inca stonework”. He had discovered the long-lost Inca city of Machu Picchu, and – though he couldn’t have known it at the time – it was to prove one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century.

KINGDOM OF GOLD

Hiram Bingham III is sometimes hailed as a kind of proto-Indiana Jones – a

buccaneering archaeologist-turned-adventurer who felt more at home in the middle of a jungle than buried in a textbook. He developed a passion for Latin American history as a boy and, armed with a PhD in the subject, made the journey to Yale University to pursue a career as a lecturer. He might have stayed at Yale, had he not met and married Alfreda Mitchell, an heiress to the Tiffany jewellery fortune. Bingham now had the financial security to fulfil his dream – embark on his first expedition to South America.

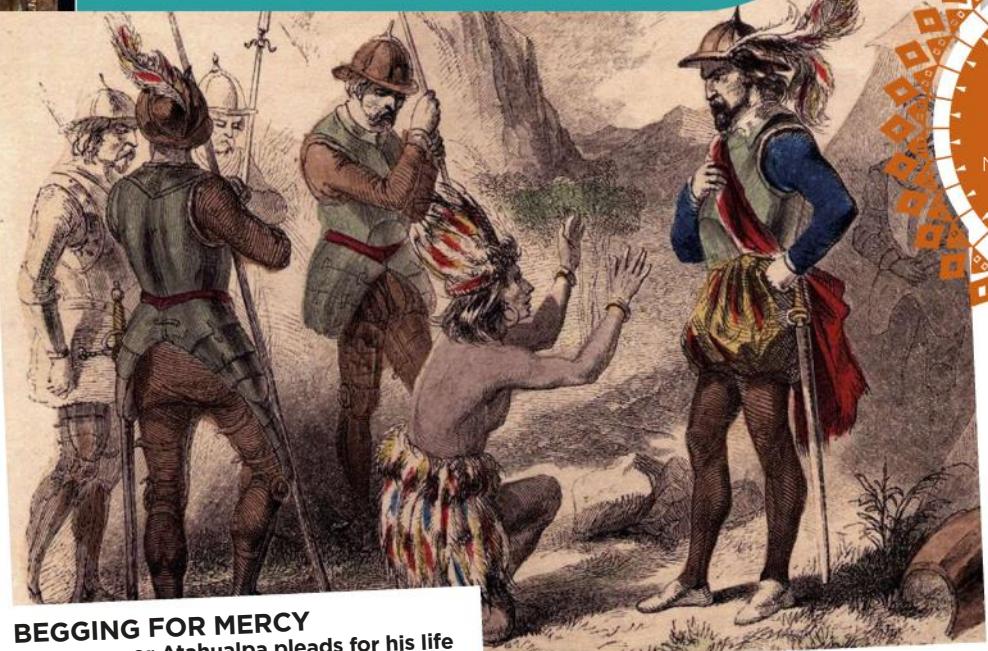
That first adventure, in 1906, saw him trace the celebrated political leader Simón Bolívar’s routes through Venezuela and Colombia in 1819. But it was a people who dominated South America 300 years before Bolívar who really fired Bingham’s imagination, and ultimately led him to that first, historic sighting of Machu Picchu. They were the Inca.

Over the course of a few hundred years from the 12th century AD, the Inca forged one of the greatest empires the world had yet seen. They were warriors, conquerors, architects and road-builders extraordinaire, presiding over a vast swathe of territory that ran 2,500 miles down South America’s western seaboard. Unfortunately for them, however, they also developed



HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

MACHU PICCHU: THE CITY IN THE SKY



BEGGING FOR MERCY

Inca emperor Atahualpa pleads for his life before conquistador Francisco Pizarro



A LIFE UNEXPECTED

HIRAM BINGHAM

If Hiram Bingham III's parents – both missionaries – had gotten their way, then instead of stomping around Peru in search of Inca cities, their son would have carved out a living spreading the word of God. But Bingham was more interested in South American history than the scriptures. And so he embarked on a series of expeditions to Peru in search of long-lost Inca cities. Following his landmark discovery of Machu Picchu in 1911, Bingham went into politics, serving as a member of the US Senate for the state of Connecticut and, later, helping President Truman's administration identify communists working in government. He died in 1956.

an obsession with gold. For in 1532, a ruthless Spanish conquistador named Francisco Pizarro stepped onto Inca territory, accompanied by around 180 followers. Pizarro shared the Inca's infatuation and, hearing tales of their vast and exquisite stores of yellow metal, made a beeline for their emperor, Atahualpa. In the long, and sometimes undistinguished history of European colonialism, what happened next has gone down in infamy.

In November 1532, Pizarro invited Atahualpa to a meeting in the town of Cajamarca. But the conquistador had a nasty surprise for his host. Having lured Atahualpa and his followers into a plaza, Pizarro's men attacked, unleashing volleys of gunfire into the unarmed Inca masses. Many were killed and Atahualpa was taken hostage.

To earn his freedom, the Emperor reportedly offered Pizarro a ransom that would make the conquistador fantastically rich – a room full of gold, and two full of silver. Almost immediately, gold started pouring in from across the Inca Empire. But the Spanish reneged on their promise to release Atahualpa, and instead had him executed.

It was an act that triggered all-out war; a triumph of military technology over weight of numbers. The Spanish could only call upon a couple of hundred men – far fewer than the thousands that the Inca had at their disposal. But what the Spanish did possess was armour, firearms, cannons and horses. Against an enemy that possessed clubs and spears – and which had already been weakened by civil war and smallpox – these were to prove decisive.

Within a few short years, the Spanish had utterly ravaged the once-great Inca Empire, levelling towns and temples wherever they found them. And it was what happened as Pizarro and his men slowly but surely squeezed the life out of Inca resistance over the following decades that brought Hiram Bingham III back to Peru on another expedition in 1911.

WRONG TRACK

What drew Bingham to South America was the long-lost Inca citadel of Vilcabamba. It was from here, deep in Peru's mountains, that the emperor Manco Inca had led an audacious guerrilla campaign against the Spanish. And it was here that the very last embers of Inca resistance were extinguished in 1572.

DID YOU KNOW?
In 2007, Machu Picchu was voted one of the New Seven Wonders of the World in an internet poll

SACRED PLAZA
This was the political centre of the city, where rituals and ceremonies took place.

RELIGIOUS SECTOR

DEPOT/RESERVOIR

Two floors

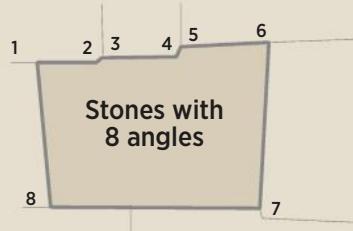
The Inca had no furniture, but slept on llama-skin blankets

SOUTHERN ENTRANCE

AGRICULTURE SECTOR

WONDERS OF STONE

The city was built stone-by-stone in perfect unity.

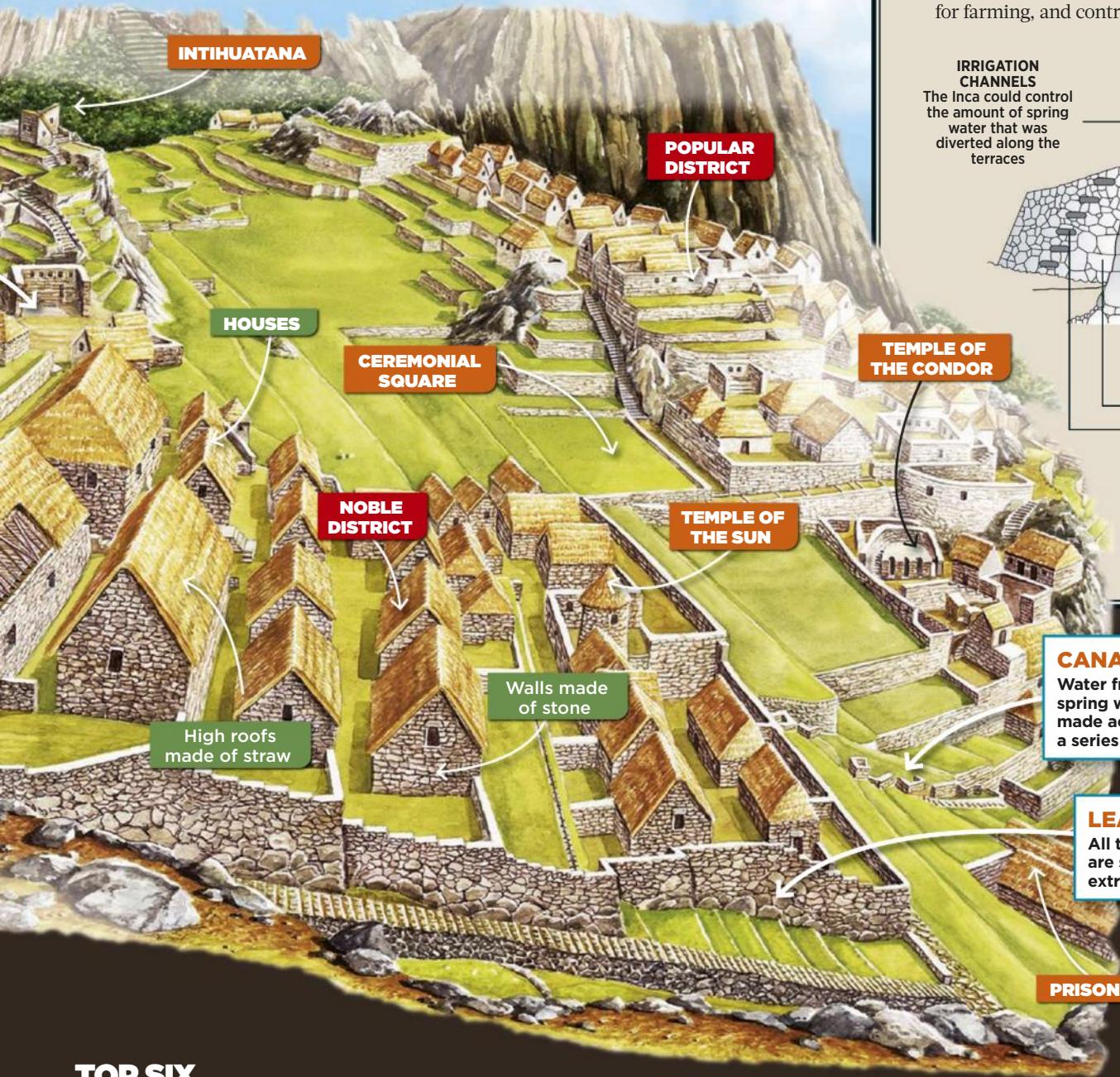


The stones fitted together without any use of mortar or binding material.

The stones were not rectangular, but instead they had many angles.

Each stone was cut so as to fit in perfectly.

MACHU PICCHU



TOP SIX THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR



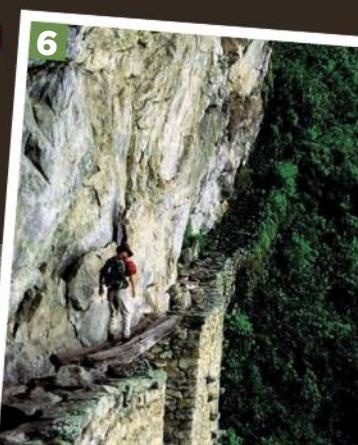
INTIHUATANA
This magnificent carved rock – often called the ‘hitching post of the Sun’ – was almost certainly some kind of astronomical clock or calendar, designed to track the Sun’s passage across the sky.



THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN
The Temple of the Sun was a huge, semicircular place of worship aligned to catch the Sun’s rays on the winter solstice. It boasts some of the finest stonework in all of Machu Picchu.

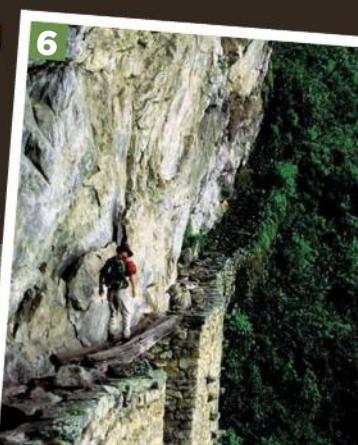


THE TEMPLE OF THE THREE WINDOWS
Sited in the eastern corner of Machu Picchu’s main plaza, this stone hall – containing three windows along one wall – offers extraordinary views.



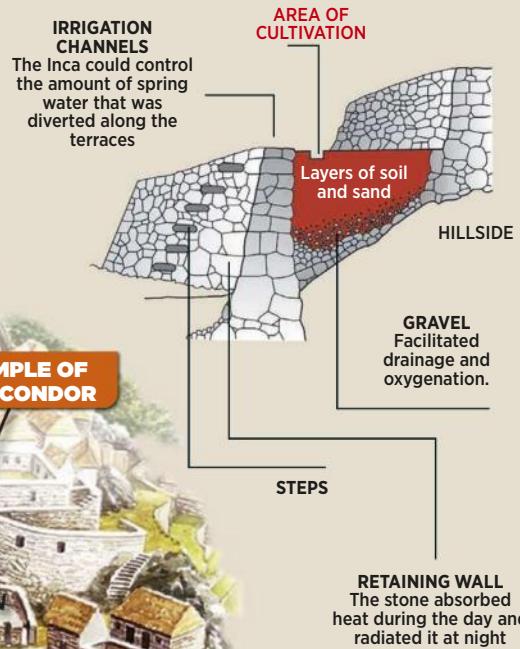
THE TEMPLE OF THE CONDOR
This bird had great significance for the Inca people, as it was believed to represent the ‘upper world’. This rock was carved to look like a condor in flight, and acted as a ceremonial centre.

INTI PUNKU
The Inti Punku (or ‘Sun Gate’), dedicated to the cult of Inti, was a main entrance point into the citadel from the Inca capital, Cusco, and would have been heavily guarded during its 15th-century heyday.



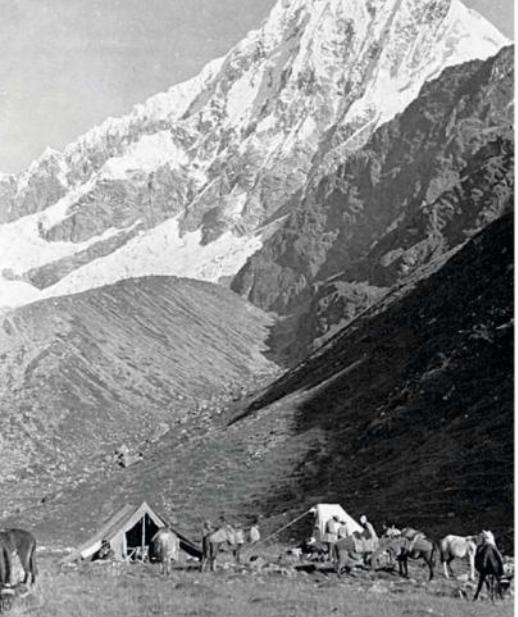
INCA BRIDGE
A six-metre gap in the trail to Machu Picchu spanned by four or five planks of wood above a 600-metre drop make up its ‘secret’ back entrance. The planks could be removed to deter unwanted visitors.

TERRACES
A system of stepped terraces on the mountainside helped to slow down erosion, provided a level surface for farming, and controlled the flow of water.



CANALS
Water from a mountain spring was collected and made accessible through a series of fountains.

LEANING IN
All the walls of the city are slightly slanted for extra support.



ROOM WITH A VIEW
Bingham's expedition team camp at the foot of Mount Salcantay



LONG WAY UP
The team ride mules through the Urubamba canyon



CLOUDY VISION
After ten days of deforestation, the ruins of Machu Picchu became clear



Bingham was determined to find this tragic city.

The thrilling possibility that he had done just that must have raced around his head as he explored Machu Picchu for the first time in July 1911. But this wasn't Vilcabamba; it was somewhere far more spectacular still.

Bingham would return to Machu Picchu on numerous occasions over the following years. He took hundreds of photographs, excavated scores of graves, and transported thousands of objects – among them pottery, tools and bronze knives – back to the United States (in doing so, he sparked a long-running spat between Yale and the Peruvian government, which accused the university of profiting from Peru's cultural heritage).

But it was what Bingham left behind him that led UNESCO, when appointing Machu Picchu a World Heritage Site in 1983, to declare it "an absolute masterpiece of architecture and a unique testimony to the Inca civilisation".

ENGINEERED TO LAST

Archaeologists believe that somewhere between 300 and 1,000 people lived up here in the city's heyday. As subsequent excavations would reveal, the city was divided between an agricultural and an urban sector, the latter made up of major temples, housing and workshops, and an open central plaza where the

population would have congregated to worship. And, as Bingham soon realised, these were no ordinary buildings – they were masterpieces of engineering, edifices of almost mind-boggling beauty and complexity.

They may have had nothing more than stone and bronze tools at their disposal, but Inca craftsmen were masters of their art, constructing the walls and buildings that sit atop Machu Picchu with almost surgical precision.

Of these, none is more impressive than the Temple of the Sun, a huge, semicircular place of worship aligned to catch the Sun's rays on the winter solstice. It was constructed around what the Inca would have regarded as a sacred rock, which may have acted as an altar.

Worship of the Sun God was clearly important to the residents of Machu Picchu, and this is borne out by the presence of a famous ritual stone known as the 'Inti Watana'. Archaeologists believe that the Inca performed a ritual here at winter solstice, in which they ceremonially tied the Sun to the post so that it couldn't fall permanently below the horizon.

If the Temple of the Sun and the Inti Watana were the spiritual hubs of

1



7



SWALLOWED BY THE JUNGLE
ABOVE: The terraces of the upper city were exposed by the expedition team
LEFT: A photo of Machu Picchu taken by Bingham himself



KEEP COOL
These grain stores were built higher up, where the temperature was lower, to better preserve the crops.



2



3



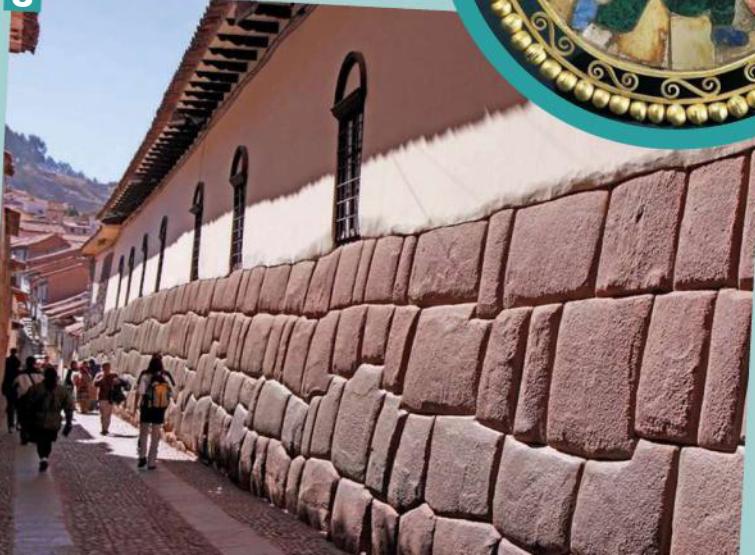
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LIFE ON THE EDGE THE INCA EMPIRE

More than a century before a 'British' empire was a mere twinkle in Queen Elizabeth I's eye, a mighty Inca warrior-king named Pachacuti was presiding over one of the greatest polities in the world.

At its height in the mid-15th century, the Inca Empire encompassed much of South America's western seaboard, a 2,500-mile-long, 500-mile-wide swathe of land that, from its glittering capital of Cusco, ruled 12 million people from more than 100 ethnic groups. In terms of reach and power, it put even the mighty Aztecs of Mexico in the shade.

The Inca first appeared (in modern south-eastern Peru) in the 12th century. They began seriously expanding their territory at the end of the 14th century, but it was during the reign of their eighth emperor, Viracocha Inca, that they truly started to become a superpower. Not only was Viracocha a successful warrior, he was also a shrewd empire-builder, leaving military garrisons to keep the peace in conquered lands.

Yet Viracocha's achievements paled in comparison to the aforementioned Pachacuti, who extended the empire both north and south. Pachacuti was a ruthless ruler who ordered the forced resettlement of conquered peoples to prevent uprisings. He was also a canny one. His masterstroke was to introduce a policy whereby rulers were prevented from inheriting their predecessors' possessions. This ensured that they were hungry to accumulate new lands and wealth for themselves.

Not only were the Inca brilliant warriors, they were also consummate engineers, and constructed a network of roads that spanned their enormous empire. Furnished with way stations every mile and a half, these could cope with anything the highest mountains or deepest ravines could throw at them. Those roads connected an incredibly diverse array of subject peoples, most of whom were self-sufficient farmers who produced everything from corn to squash and – critically to the building of Cusco and Machu Picchu – provided labour. It was this toil and sweat on which the Inca emperors' fantastic wealth was built.

And that wealth was to have catastrophic consequences for the Inca when Francisco Pizarro first made contact with the hapless Emperor Atahualpa in 1532.

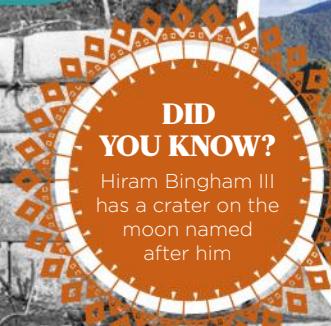
REMAINS OF A NATION

- 1: The ruins of Ollantaytambo, Pachacuti's royal estate
- 2: Inca salt mine at Salinas de Maras
- 3: Irrigation channels at Tipón, a 15th-century Inca complex
- 4: A silver-cast Inca male of elite status, as indicated by his stretched earlobes
- 5: Agricultural terraces at Moray
- 6: Ear ornament made from gold and shells
- 7: An Inca vase
- 8: One of the best-preserved Inca roads in Cusco



HISTORY'S GREATEST MYSTERIES

MACHU PICCHU: THE CITY IN THE SKY



Machu Picchu, then a series of exquisite buildings containing a royal palace – known as the 'king's group' – appear to be the secular centre. This was clearly the residence of someone very important, for not only is it the most elaborate of Machu Picchu's buildings, it was also sited next to the city's most impressive fountain, serving up water delivered by a 760-metre-long stone-lined canal.

If that was an amazing hydraulic achievement, then the city's famous terrace system was perhaps even more impressive. Twelve acres of fertile farming land provided maize, potatoes and even avocados for the population's palates. And, by soaking up the 2,000 millimetres of rainfall that fell from the sky each year, the terraces would have served another critical purpose: stopping the city from sliding off the side of the mountain.

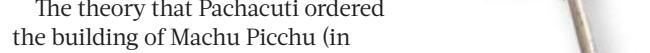
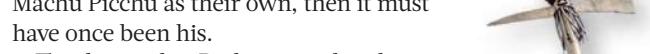
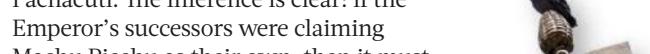
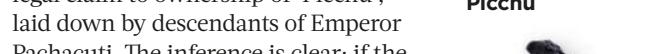
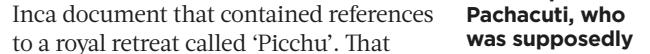
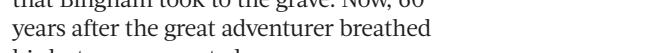
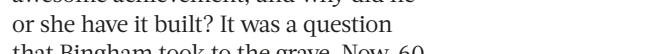
CITY IN THE CLOUDS

To appreciate the true genius of Machu Picchu, you have to consider not just what it contains, but where it is: 2,430 metres above sea level; 450 metres above the river Urubamba, which races past the feet of the cliffs below.

This truly is a city in the clouds, and the fact that its inhabitants had to transport 20-tonne stones up the side of this mountain with perhaps nothing more sophisticated at their disposal than wooden sleds turns it from a spectacular engineering achievement into an astounding one.

But the question is, who was the driving force behind this

"Perhaps they felt isolated up there in their lofty home"





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